

Little kids can know God through His Son

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(With additional ideas
from the original text)

PLEASE NOTE!

The visuals for this series can be purchased from most CEF offices and online shops. For a list of CEF offices and online shops in Europe, please visit www.teachkids.eu and click on "Locations".

Text published by:

CEF® of Europe
Kilchzimmer
4438 Langenbruck
Switzerland
www.cefeurope.com



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Table of contents

Lesson		Page
	Why teach young children?	3
	What young children are like	3
	How to use this series	4
	Tips on teaching young children	4
	Teaching 2s and 3s	6
	Why lead young children to Christ?	7
	Young children and salvation	7
	Play dough, clay, instruments and costumes	8
	Planning your class time	9
	Overview	10
	Memory verse actions and music	13
	Song lyrics and actions	15
	Action rhyme	17
Lesson 1	Jesus, the Promised Saviour, is born	19
Lesson 2	Shepherds see Jesus	29
Lesson 3	Wise men worship the Saviour King	39
Lesson 4	The boy Jesus grows	49
Lesson 5	Jesus starts His work	59
Lesson 6	Matthew and his friends meet Jesus	71
	Memory verse symbols (lessons 1-3)	81
	Memory verse symbols (lesson 4)	83
	Memory verse symbols (lessons 5 and 6)	84
	Nametag patterns (lessons 1-6)	85
	Nativity figures (lessons 1 and 2)	86
	Sheep (lesson 2)	88
	Paper plate angels (lesson 2)	89
	Star concentration (lesson 3)	90
	Star (lesson 3)	91
	Clothes peg camels (lesson 3)	91
	Boy and girl arrow (lesson 4)	92
	Messages (lesson 5)	92
	Dove (lesson 5)	93
	Circle pictures (lesson 5)	94
	I believe the Bible (take-home visuals - lesson 6)	95
	Footprint (lesson 6)	97
	How to lead a child to Christ	Back cover

Why teach young children?

Whether you are a new teacher or one who is well seasoned, you have chosen to invest your time in one of the most fruitful ministries: teaching young children! Why teach young children? According to specialists, the first five or six years of a child's life are his most sensitive, receptive and crucial period of development. These years, in which he develops his will to learn, his creativity and his ability to perform, affect all of his subsequent learning. If intellectual development is half over by age five, then teaching the Bible to young children has the potential of laying some very important spiritual and intellectual foundations.

What young children are like

Players



Physically, young children's large muscles are developing. These growing muscles can actually cause discomfort if they sit still for too long. They need time to play and plenty of space to move around in. They need variety and activity in every learning situation. Let them role-play Bible stories and play-act situations and applications to allow movement and reinforce the lesson. In this series you will find dramatic activities, action rhymes and movement woven into the Bible lessons, songs and memory verse teaching to help you meet this need.

Mentally, young children are questioning, observing and learning all the time. They enjoy learning and do so through all five senses. It is important to use a variety of methods and materials that appeal to their senses and maximise learning. Young children are also literal-minded and need simple, clear terminology - words that mean what they say. This does not mean you should never use more challenging words. It is important to expose them to Bible words they may not learn anywhere else, such as "*sin*", "*Saviour*" and "*worship*". This series makes use of carefully chosen words and explanations, as well as a variety of sensory experiences.



Curious

Self-centred



Socially, young children see the world as revolving around themselves and their needs. They are limited to their own viewpoint. Avoid competition but reward them for individual effort. The welcome ideas, review games, creative and enrichment activities in this series give young children opportunities to succeed without competition.

Emotionally, young children are easily hurt and their feelings are often "on the surface". Provide security and a sense of love and belonging. Seek to build self-esteem with positive comments about their character and ways they are growing and learning to do more. Young children are trusting, so be accurate and truthful. Build trust by keeping your word and being consistent. The teaching objectives, main teachings and applications in this series direct them to their ultimate source of security and love - a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.



Vulnerable

Credulous



Spiritually, young children eagerly accept Bible truth and are capable of learning basic doctrine in broad, simple terms. Some may also be ready to receive Christ as Saviour. Be sure to teach through repetition and give opportunities for response. Always keep in mind that their relationship with you, their teacher, will influence their relationship with God. Prayerfully commit your teaching ministry to the Lord and let His love for the children flow through you. This series provides a solid foundation of basic Gospel truths, relevant examples of sin and biblical applications repeated in words, actions and songs.

How to use this series

This volume is one in a series produced by *Child Evangelism Fellowship*® for use with young children. It is our conviction that little kids *can* know God!

This book contains all the information you will need to teach your class.

The complete lesson text is included in this book. Try not to read from the book but keep eye contact with the children. A lesson that is taught, not read, is more believable and interesting for the children. More experienced teachers may want to display the visuals on an easel at eye level to the children and teach from an open Bible. This allows the teacher's hands to be free for the variety of activities woven into the lessons.

Each lesson includes many opportunities for active involvement through dramatic activities, action rhymes and songs. Be sure to evaluate the needs of your group and choose the ideas that will work best and fit within your class time.

Scriptures are quoted from the New King James Version of the Bible. If desired, you may easily substitute another translation. The verse explanations and memory verse symbols are adaptable for any translation or language.

You will find the following symbols throughout these materials. Each indicates an activity.

Activity symbols



Song



Dramatic activity



Action rhyme

Tips on teaching young children

Be prepared and organised

- ◆ Study your lesson and class schedule thoroughly.
- ◆ Plan your time well.
- ◆ Prepare a written programme and follow it.
- ◆ Organise your materials.
- ◆ Be flexible to meet the needs of your class.
- ◆ Be prepared for interruptions - and surprises!

Plan a pre-session time

Planning a pre-session, of course, assumes you will be in the classroom and ready before the first child arrives! This not only helps you be better prepared to teach, it also provides a sense of security for the children. Have nametags available. These may be created with coloured card or fun foam and attached with a safety pin or double-sided tape. Also provide pictures to colour, storybooks to look at and recorded stories or music to listen to. These activities could be organised into “interest centres” around the room. Activities you choose should reinforce the lesson aim for the day, or provide a review of previous lesson aims. The suggestions in the welcome segment are designed to be used in pre-session time. These ideas are effective yet simple and require little preparation. It is good always to have a planned activity but sometimes the best pre-session activity is just to sit, and talk with the children as they arrive.

Have a routine

It is important to establish a routine and state expectations for each area of the room and each teaching segment. The children will feel secure when they know what to expect. A suggested class schedule is given at the beginning of each lesson to use as a guide. Try to follow the schedule you decide on, but be sensitive to how children respond to each activity and adapt accordingly. Routines that provide security and interest may include regular opening and closing songs; carpet squares to sit on; areas of the room designated for certain activities (eg story area, song area, craft area); rhymes or action rhymes to signal certain activities.

Involve the children

- ◆ **Helping** - Let children hold songs or other visuals, and hand out materials.
- ◆ **Role-plays** - Children enjoy acting out events of the lesson.
- ◆ **Prayer** - Have the children pray aloud in class for specific requests.
- ◆ **Action songs and rhymes** - Sing songs with actions and include action rhymes.
- ◆ **Questions** - Ask questions while you teach as well as in a review time. Allow children time to ask their own questions.

Engage the senses

Because young children learn through their senses, an effective teaching session will include experiences with all five: seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, touching. When planning your lesson and class hour, put yourself in the story. What would have touched your senses if you were one of the characters? What would you have seen or heard? What might you have smelled or tasted? Are there objects or textures you would have touched? Asking yourself these questions will help you think creatively about what to bring to class for the children to experience. Here are a few examples:

- ◆ **Seeing** - Talk about the visuals you use and ask children questions about what they see.
- ◆ **Hearing** - Use your voice creatively to depict characters in your lesson. Let the children use their voices to imitate sounds or repeat dialogue. Include songs to reinforce the lesson.

- ◆ **Smelling** - Use lesson-related items that have an aroma (eg foods, spices, perfumes, incense). Also let the children pretend to smell aromas that would have been present (eg food cooking, flowers, animals).
- ◆ **Tasting** - Let the children taste foods mentioned or implied in the lesson and sample foods from different cultures.
- ◆ **Touching** - Provide safe lesson-related objects the children can touch. Include different shapes and textures and nature items. Also let the children help you hold flashcards, song visuals and memory verse symbols.

Use a variety of visuals

Use pictures and objects of various shapes, sizes and colours. The verse and song visuals can be presented in several different ways:

- ◆ Mount them on craft sticks.
- ◆ Add magnets to the back to use on a baking tray.
- ◆ Use clothes pegs and clip them to a string.
- ◆ Slide them in a pocket chart.
- ◆ Add flocked paper, paper towel scraps or sandpaper to the back for use on a flannelboard.

Teach with music

Music provides opportunities for movement and captures the interest of distracted listeners. It is not necessary to teach the songs word by word to the children. Just sing them. Children will learn the songs simply by listening. Even if you are not musically inclined, try to include plenty of songs. Young children often learn songs more quickly than any other part of the teaching.

Review often

Reinforce your lesson in a variety of ways. Use review games, songs, role-plays, crafts and object lessons. You can also let the children retell the lesson using your visuals.

Be friendly

Smile often. Speak to the children at their eye level. Be personal and try to always use the children's names. Show interest in each child as an individual. Be patient and be generous with praise and encouragement.

Discipline consistently

Be loving yet firm in your discipline and realistic in your expectations. Remember that young children need lots of movement and opportunity for response. When discipline problems do occur, be careful to discipline the behaviour, not the child (ie, the problem is not the child himself but his inappropriate behaviour). Keep in mind that being well prepared and providing plenty of interaction will eliminate most problems.

- ◆ Have well-defined rules and be consistent in upholding them. Review the rules verbally and possibly with a visual reminder at the start of every class. Designate how many children can be at each centre or activity.
- ◆ Give positive guidance by telling what a child should do, not just what he should not do. Say, "Do this," instead of, "Don't do that."
- ◆ When a child misbehaves, ask if he needs time to think about appropriate behaviour. If thinking time is needed, have him sit alone for one minute per year of age. When the time is up, ask if he is ready to behave appropriately. If so, he may rejoin the activity.
- ◆ Plan to have a helper sit close to a child who consistently causes a disturbance in class. Often a touch on the arm will help refocus the child.

Teaching 2s and 3s

Two- and three-year-olds are very teachable. Some even refer to these years as the "age of discovery." Because there is a wide range of maturity levels within this age group, you need to be sensitive to each child on his individual level.

Class schedule

Include an activity after every two or three minutes of teaching time.

Bible lesson

Use lots of repetition. This age group thrives on hearing the same lesson many times (at least two to four times) before going to a new one!

Songs

Choose two or three songs to use throughout the series. Sing each song several times during the class time. When using a visual for a song, have a different child hold the visual each time you sing it. Keep singing the same song until all who want to hold the visual have had a turn.

Memory verse

Repetition is the key to teaching a memory verse to these little ones. Say one short phrase at a time and have the children repeat it after you. With a small group of children have one child at a time repeat the verse. You may want to use stickers to encourage or reward them. Continue to work on the same verse during the series until the children have it memorised.

Gospel spotlight

Use the same Gospel tool throughout the series. Explain each symbol (whether it is a colour, picture or shape) using a simple description and have the children repeat it back to you. Review the Gospel at the beginning of each class. Repeat the Gospel, when appropriate, while singing a song or reciting the memory verse. Conclude each session with a Gospel presentation.

Why lead young children to Christ?

Can a young child be saved? The Lord Jesus said, “Unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 18:3). Jesus gave His promise of salvation to “whoever believes” (John 3:16) without any other limitation. He spoke of little ones who believe in Him and the danger of offending them (Matthew 18:6).

Shirley Wisner, who for many years served as a teacher trainer and a columnist for *Evangelizing Today's Child*® magazine, based the accountability of a child on James 4:17 - “Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.” Mrs Wisner stated, “Any normal child knows right from wrong long before he is five. He learns early that there are certain things he is not to do because they are wrong and that if he does them he will be punished. This same child can easily be taught that God calls such wrongdoing sin and that there is a remedy for sin.”

Statistics show that eighty-five percent of those who make decisions for Christ do so between the ages of four and fourteen. Josh McDowell, a renowned speaker and author, spoke about this statistic and said, “It’s probably going to be ninety-five percent within five years.” He also predicted the age span would likely decrease to four and

eight. It is clear that we need to reach children early and there is an advantage in doing so. Many Christian leaders were saved as preschool children. For example, Corrie ten Boom was saved at age five, Dr James Dobson at age three and Amy Carmichael at age three.

Most children who are converted at a very early (ie preschool) age have had the privilege of a Christian upbringing.

It is important that our first goal is to evangelise the children. As Dr Howard Hendricks stated, “To expect a child to live the Christian life when he does not possess it is to mock him. Until the Holy Spirit takes up residence in a person’s heart he cannot live [a life] pleasing to God.”

In Mark 16:15 the Lord Jesus commands us to preach the Gospel to “every creature.” This includes children. David Livingstone, famous Scottish missionary and explorer, said, “Our business is to teach children about sin and the Saviour, without even a hint about a certain age to accept Christ. The Holy Spirit will, in due time, convict them of sin.” God is able to draw a child to Himself. If you doubt the child’s ability to communicate with God, do not doubt God’s ability to communicate with the child!

Young children and salvation

As we work with preschoolers we endeavour to build Bible truths into their understanding, “block by block”. Each teaching session will aim to lead them to understand a Bible truth or to deepen their understanding of a truth they have already learned. In this way they will be taught the basics of the Gospel and much more. As you teach, depend on the Holy Spirit to give them spiritual understanding and to draw them to Christ. Be mindful, however, that preschoolers really want to please their teacher so we must avoid professions made on that basis.

If a child has questions, answer them on the child’s level; if he is not satisfied with the answer he will ask again, or he may have another question. Let the child set the pace and be very careful not to put pressure on a child to make a profession of faith. If a child is very clear about the Gospel and clearly wants to trust the Lord, you may find “Key questions for counselling” (see back cover) useful.

Play dough, clay, instruments and costumes

Below are some staple items for fun and learning. For a creative activity children can use play dough or clay to form lesson-related objects as you review the lesson. Rhythm instruments are great for providing active participation in a rhythm band or praise parade. Costumes allow children the fun of “dressing up” as they role-play various parts of the lesson.

Play dough

1 cup plain (all-purpose) flour
 ½ cup salt
 2 tablespoons cream of tartar
 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
 1 cup water with food colouring added

Optional: food colouring; vanilla, cinnamon, or other fragrance; glitter.

Put all the ingredients into a large saucepan, and stir over a medium heat until the dough forms into a ball. Allow to cool, and then knead until smooth.

Store in an airtight container (a zipped plastic bag with the air pressed out is good).

Craft clay

200 g cornflour
 2¼ litre water
 400 g baking soda

Mix all the ingredients together in a medium saucepan. Cook and stir over medium heat until thickened to a dough-like consistency. Turn the mixture onto a flat surface lightly dusted with cornflour and knead. Cover with a damp cloth or keep in a plastic bag. The clay may be used for crafts or “models”, which can be painted when dry.

Rhythm instruments

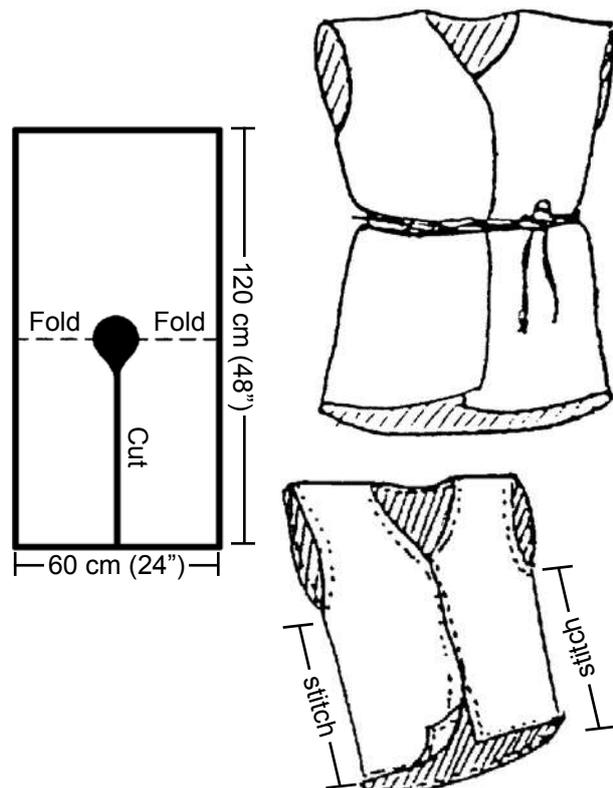
Make simple rhythm instruments from household items and decorate them with stickers, coloured tape, glitter, markers, crayons or other materials. (Do this before class or as a creative activity with the children.) Be sure to securely glue or tape the lids on instruments containing rice or beans.

- ♦ Small plastic boxes (each with a lid) filled with a few beans or rice for shakers.
- ♦ Small boxes open on one side with rubber bands stretched over the opening for harps.
- ♦ Tubes for horns.

- ♦ Biscuit tins or cardboard boxes for drums.
- ♦ Sets of two sticks or dowels for rhythm sticks.
- ♦ Bells on leather straps or ribbons for jingle bells.
- ♦ Disposable plastic containers with holes punched around the edges and bells attached with wool or ribbon for tambourines.
- ♦ Sets of two sanded wooden blocks with sandpaper glued to one side for rhythm blocks.

Bible costumes

This toga costume can be used for both male and female Bible characters. Use any material, but be sure to hem all the raw edges. Make three sizes for children: small (60 x 120 cm / 24” x 48”), medium (70 x 152 cm / 28” x 60”) and large (75 x 160 cm / 30” x 64”). (For adults and youth, experiment to determine the desired dimensions.) Create a rope or fabric belt for each toga. For simpler costumes, paper grocery sacks may be used. Cut arm and head openings in each.



Planning your class time

Below is a suggested schedule to help you plan a fun-filled 30-minute, 1-hour or 2-hour teaching time, presented once a week or daily. If you are teaching once a week, you will find there are many activities to choose from - and not enough time to use all of them! In a daycare setting these additional ideas and materials could be passed on to the daycare provider as a way to reinforce your teaching throughout the week. In a church setting these ideas would work well in a midweek service or other meeting.

To teach these materials in a Monday to Friday setting, choose one of the three plans according to the time available. If you have only 30 minutes, divide the memory verse and Bible lesson and Gospel spotlight between the five days as indicated below. A review time can be given daily or in place of the Gospel spotlight at the end of the week.

Day 1 **Day 2** **Day 3** **Day 4** **Day 5**
 Memory verse Bible lesson part 1 Bible lesson part 2 Bible lesson part 3 Gospel/Bible spotlight

Time schedule

(Unless otherwise noted, time segments are given in minutes.)

	Class segment	30 minutes	1 hour	2 hours
	Welcome	Pre-session	Pre-session	Pre-session
	Worship	-	5	5
	Memory verse	5	5	10
	Stretch*	5	5	5
	Bible lesson**	15	15	20
	Review	5	5	10
	Gospel/Bible spotlight	-	5	5
	Snack	-	-	10
	Creative activity	-	15	20
	Enrichment activity	-	-	25
	Going home***	-	5	10

* Use the suggested stretching activities or sing action songs.

** Include or omit dramatic activities as time allows.

*** While waiting for parents, have children help to tidy up, review the memory verse and sing songs.

Overview

Lesson	Central truth	Welcome	Worship	Memory verse	Stretch	Review	Gospel/Bible spotlight	Songs and action rhymes <small>(Action rhymes are italicised)</small>	Creative activity <small>(Choose one)</small>	Enrichment activity <small>(Choose one)</small>
Jesus, the Promised Saviour, is born Galatians 4:4-5 Luke 1:26-38 Matthew 1:16, 18-25 Luke 2:1-7	God kept His promise to send a Saviour	Ball toss	“Jesus loves me” Prayer “I can know God” Offering	“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son ...” (John 3:16) Verse with actions	Stretch and hop	Add a figure to the nativity scene	Gospel bells	<i>Glad Christmas day</i>	John 3:16 games Student activity sheets Play dough	Jesus is born Character review
Shepherds see Jesus Matthew 1:21-23 Luke 2:8-20	God always tells the truth	Ball toss	“Jesus loves me” Prayer “I can know God” Offering	“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish ...” (John 3:16) Verse with actions	Head and shoulders, knees and toes	Shepherds come to the manger	“The angel told the news” (song)	“The angel told the news”	Paper plate angels Student activity sheets Play dough	Build a nativity scene Picture hunt

Overview (continued)

Lesson	Central truth	Welcome	Worship	Memory verse	Stretch	Review	Gospel/Bible spotlight	Songs and action rhymes <small>(Action rhymes are italicised)</small>	Creative activity <small>(Choose one)</small>	Enrichment activity <small>(Choose one)</small>
Wise men worship the Saviour King Matthew 2:1-12 Numbers 24:17	Jesus is the King	Travelling game	"I can know God" Prayer <i>Glad Christmas day</i> <i>Glory to God</i> Offering	"For God so loved the world that He gave His only ... Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16) Verse with actions	Head and shoulders, knees and toes	Star concentration	"The angel told the news" (song)	"I believe the Bible" "The angel told the news"	Clothes peg camels Student activity sheets Play dough	Find the star Follow the star
The boy Jesus grows Luke 1:35 Luke 2:39-47, 51-52 John 1:1-2	Jesus came to save people from their sin	What daddies and mummies do	"I can know God" Prayer "I believe the Bible" Offering	"... The Father has sent the Son as Saviour of the world" (1 John 4:14) Sing a verse	Let's be daddies and mummies	We're growing	What do we need to help us grow?	"Three in one" "1 John 4:14" "God is so good"	Body tracings Student activity sheets Play dough	We're growing I can

Overview (continued)

Lesson	Central truth	Welcome	Worship	Memory verse	Stretch	Review	Gospel/Bible spotlight	Songs and action rhymes <small>(Action rhymes are italicised)</small>	Creative activity <small>(Choose one)</small>	Enrichment activity <small>(Choose one)</small>
Jesus starts His work Luke 3:21-22 Luke 4:14-15 Luke 5:1-11	God wants you to trust in Jesus and follow Him	Catch a fish	"I can know God" Prayer "Hear God's Word" Offering	"... I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God ..." (John 11:27)	Head and shoulders, knees and toes	Fish in the sea	John 3:16	"I believe the Bible" "I can know God"	Where to tell others about Jesus Student activity sheets Play dough	Loving work charades What can we do?
Matthew and his friends meet Jesus Luke 5:1-11 Luke 5:27-32 Luke 6:12-16	God wants you to be a follower of Jesus	Let's set the table	"I can know God" Prayer "Hear God's Word" Offering	Review John 11:27	Go tell someone	Fill the money bag with taxes	"I believe the Bible" (song)	"I can know God"	I believe the Bible (take-home visuals) Student activity sheets Play dough	Go and tell I believe

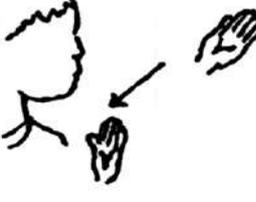
Memory verse actions and music

Lessons 1-3

Verse with actions

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only ... Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”

 <p>“God” Point up, then open and bring hand down in front of chest.</p>	 <p>“loved” Cross hands in front of chest.</p>	 <p>“the world” Circle right pointer finger from right shoulder to left.</p>
 <p>“gave” Move open palm toward self.</p>	 <p>“Son” *Touch right middle finger to left palm; touch left middle finger to right palm.</p>	 <p>“Whoever” Point to individuals in group.</p>
 <p>“believes” Touch forehead then firmly clasp hands.</p>	 <p>“Him” *Touch right middle finger to left palm; touch left middle finger to right palm.</p>	 <p>“perish” Hold fists at chest height and pull them away from each other.</p>
 <p>“everlasting” Draw circle in front of body.</p>		 <p>“life” Move wiggling fingers upward from waist then separate hands in front of face.</p>

* You may need to explain that this reminds of how Jesus died on the cross for us.

Memory verse actions and music (continued)

Lesson 4
Sing a verse

1 John 4:14

“... The Father has sent the Son as Saviour of the world”

Actions: (1) Point up. (2) Rock arms as if holding baby. (3) Make cross with index fingers. (4) Touch fingertips above head, forming a circle.

1 John 4:14

(Tune: *The Wise and the Foolish Man*)

Arr. Harry Dixon Loes

Amended for translation
by Angela McKee

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of three systems. Each system has a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a bass clef staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. Chord markings (F, C7, D, Gm, C, F) are placed above the treble staff. A triplet of eighth notes is indicated by a '3' above the first three notes of each system.

System 1:
 Treble: F (Chord), 3 (Triplet), ...
 Bass: ...
 Lyrics: ¹The Fa - ther has sent the ²Son as ³Sav - iour ⁴of the world. ¹The

System 2:
 Treble: 3 (Triplet), ... F (Chord)
 Bass: ...
 Lyrics: Fa - ther has sent the ²Son as ³Sav - iour ⁴of the world. ¹The

System 3:
 Treble: 3 (Triplet), D (Chord), Gm (Chord), C (Chord), F (Chord)
 Bass: ...
 Lyrics: Fa-ther has sent the ²Son as ³Sav-iour ⁴of the world. First John four four - teen.

Lessons 5 and 6
March a verse

John 11:27

“... I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God ...”

(Instructions for “march a verse” are included with both lessons.)

Song lyrics and actions

The following songs are included in the *Little kids can know God - songbook and CD* which is available from your CEF National Office. If you need an address, contact the European Headquarters (address at the front of this book).

The CD notation indicates the vocal and accompaniment only track numbers on the CD.

(CD: 1/22) **The angel told the news**

(Tune: The farmer in the dell)

- 1 (1) Joy to the world! *(repeat)*
The Lord has come for everyone.
Joy to the world!
- 2 (2) The angel told the news! *(repeat)*
God's Son is born in Bethlehem.
The angel told the news!
- 3 (3) The shepherds ran to see! *(repeat)*
Our Saviour in the manger lay.
The shepherds ran to see!
- 4 (4) The wise men travelled far! *(repeat)*
The star announced His royal birth.
The wise men travelled far!

Actions: (1) Clap to rhythm. (2) Cup hands around mouth. (3) Run on the spot. (4) Bounce slowly as if riding a camel.

Tune © 2000 Hal Leonard Corp. International copyright secured. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Lyrics by Mary Eason. © Child Evangelism Fellowship Inc. All rights reserved.

(CD: 7/28) **Hear God's Word**

(Tune: Fishers of men; lyrics adapted)

- 1 (1) Hear God's Word and (2) pray every day,
(2) Pray every day, pray every day.
(1) Hear God's Word and (2) pray every day
(3) And you'll grow, grow, grow. *(repeat twice)*
(1) Hear God's Word and (2) pray every day
(3) And you'll grow, grow, grow.
- 2 (4) Speak God's Word ...

Actions: (1) Cup hand behind ear. (2) Fold hands as if in prayer. (3) Crouch low then gradually stand tall, raising hands over head. (4) Cup hands around mouth.

By Harry D. Clarke. © 1955 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

(CD: 13/34) **Jesus loves me**

- 1 (1) Jesus (2) loves me (3) this I know
(4) For the Bible tells me so.
(5) Little ones to Him belong;
(6) They are weak but He is strong.
Yes, (1) Jesus (2) loves me. *(repeat twice)*
(4) The Bible tells me so.

- 2 (1) Jesus (2) loves me (7) when I'm good,
(4) When I do the things I should.
(1) Jesus (2) loves me (8) when I'm bad
(9) Though it makes Him very sad.
Yes, (1) Jesus (2) loves me. *(repeat twice)*
(4) The Bible tells me so.

Actions: (1) *Touch right middle finger to left palm; touch left middle finger to right palm. (2) Hug self. (3) Point to head. (4) Hold hands like an open Bible. (5) Hold hands low. (6) Hold arms out with elbows bent and forearms limp then clench fists and flex muscles. (7) Extend hands, palms up, at waist level. (8) Shake head "no" and wave index finger. (9) Slump shoulders and bow head.

* You may need to explain that this reminds of how Jesus died on the cross for us.

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(CD: 8/29) **I believe the Bible**

(Adapted)

- 1 (1) I believe the Bible. *(repeat)*
(1) I believe the Bible is the Word of God.
- 2 (2) I believe in Jesus. *(repeat)*
(2) I believe in Jesus; He's the Son of God.
- 3 (3) You and I have sinned. *(repeat)*
(3) You and I have sinned and that makes God sad.
- 4 (4) Jesus died for sinners. *(repeat)*
(4) Jesus died for sinners; Jesus died for me.
- 5 (5) Jesus Christ is risen. *(repeat)*
(5) Jesus Christ is risen; He arose for me.
- 6 (6) Will you now receive Him? *(repeat)*
(6) Will you now receive Him and be saved today?

Actions: (1) Hold hands like an open Bible. (2) Point up. (3) Point to others then to self. (4) Make cross with index fingers. (5) Raise hands, palm up. (6) Fold hands as if in prayer.

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Song lyrics and actions (continued)

(CD: 9/30, 10/31)

I can know God

(Adapted)

- 1** (1) I may not be big (2) like the mountains so tall
(3) But I can know God, (4) Who made them all.
(5) I may not be strong (6) like the rivers that flow
(3) But I can know God, (6) Who makes them go.

Chorus

(7) Yes, I can know (3) God. He's (5) big and strong.
(7) Yes, I can know (3) God and (8) sing His song.
(9) God loves me so much (7) and wants me to be
(10) A child in His own (11) forever family.

- 2** (12) I could not be there (13) to see Jesus die
(3) But I can know God (14) and understand why.
(1) I may not be big or tall (15) or so wise
(3) But I can know God (16) made Jesus alive.

Actions: (1) Stretch tall. (2) Touch fingertips together in a point above head. (3) Point up with index fingers. (4) Move hands, palms up, from in front of you to each side. (5) Flex muscles. (6) Wiggle fingers, palms down, moving hands from right side of body to left. (7) Point to self. (8) Cup hands around mouth. (9) Hug self. (10) Hold hands low. (11) Look up while lifting outstretched hands. (12) Shake head "no" and wave index finger. (13) Make cross with index fingers. (14) Hold hands like an open Bible. (15) Point to head. (16) Raise hands, palms up.

Verse 1 by James L. Swindle. © 1986 Child Evangelism Fellowship Inc.
Verse 2 and adapted chorus by Shirley Person. © 2001 Child Evangelism Fellowship Inc. All rights reserved.

(CD: 21/42)

Three in one

(Tune: Are you sleeping?)

- 1** (1) God the Father, (*repeat*)
(2) God the Son, (*repeat*)
(3) God the Holy Spirit, (*repeat*)
(4) Three in one. (*repeat*)

- 2** Praise the Father ...

Actions: (1) Point up with index fingers. (2) *Touch right middle finger to left palm; touch left middle finger to right palm. (3) Place hands over heart. (4) Hold up three fingers then one.

* You may need to explain that this reminds of how Jesus died on the cross for us.

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(CD: 2/23)

God is so good

- 1** (1) God is (2) so good. (*repeat twice*)
(2) He's so good (3) to me.
- 2** (1) God (4) loves me so. (*repeat twice*)
(2) He's so good (3) to me.
- 3** (5) I praise His name. (*repeat twice*)
(2) He's so good (3) to me.

Actions: (1) Point up with index fingers. (2) Look up while lifting outstretched hands. (3) Point to self. (4) Hug self. (5) Clap to rhythm.

Lyrics by Robert J. Hughes. © 1984 Lorenz Publishing Co. Used by permission.



Action rhyme



Glad Christmas Day

- (1) Here is kind Mary and nice Joseph too.
- (2) They were tired from travelling all the day through.
- So they stopped in the town; (3) Joseph knocked on the door.
- But the man said, (4) "I'm sorry; there's no room for more.
- (5) You may stay in the barn and sleep on the hay."
- (6) It was there God sent Jesus. Oh, glad Christmas day!

Actions: (1) Hold up one index finger then the other. (2) Slump shoulders and bow head. (3) Pretend to knock on door. (4) Shake head "no" and wave index finger. (5) Lay head on hands and pretend to sleep. (6) Clap with rhythm of words.

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Glory to God

(Luke 2:14)

- Glory to God. (echo)
In the highest. (echo)
And on Earth. (echo)
Peace and goodwill. (echo)

Actions: For each phrase stand and say the phrase then sit. Have the children stand as they echo the same phrase then sit. These words may also be sung to the tune of "Are you sleeping?"

Lesson 1

Jesus, the Promised Saviour, is born

Scripture for teachers Galatians 4:4-5
 Luke 1:26-38
 Matthew 1:16,18-25
 Luke 2:1-7

Central truth God kept His promise to send a Saviour

Application Unsaved: Believe that God sent Jesus to be your Saviour
 Saved: Thank God for sending Jesus to be your Saviour

Memory verse “For God so loved the world that He gave His only ... Son ...” (John 3:16)

Class schedule	What you need	What to do
 Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Music CD and CD player Nametags (page 85), one per child Ball or other soft object 	<p>Welcome Have soft music playing. Greet the children by name and give them their nametags.</p> <p>Activity “Ball toss” Toss the ball or other soft object to each child in turn. Ask the children different questions (eg “What is your name?” “What is your favourite food?” “What is your favourite colour?” “What is your favourite place to go on holiday?” “What is your favourite animal?”).</p>
 Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Music CD and CD player; songbook or lyrics (pages 15-16) “I can know God” visualised song Offering basket or bank 	<p>Song (CD: 13/34) “Jesus loves me”</p> <p>Prayer Lead the children in prayer: “Dear God, thank You that You love us. Thank You that You always keep Your promises. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”</p> <p>Song (CD: 10/31) “I can know God,” chorus (twice)</p> <p>Offering (Optional.) Pass around a basket or bank and let children give an offering. (Be sure to inform the parents how the money will be used.)</p>
 Memory verse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PERSON-n, PERSON-o, PERSON-p, PERSON-q and PERSON-r Or PERSON-R1, PERSON-R2, PERSON-R3, PERSON-R4 and PERSON-R5 (pages 81-82) Instructions (page 22) Actions (page 13) 	<p>Verse John 3:16</p> <p>Repetition “Verse with actions”</p>
 Stretch		<p>Activity “Stretch and hop” Have the children stand and stretch their arms high, next touch their toes, next touch their knees, next hop on one foot then the other and finally sit down.</p>

Class schedule	What you need	What to do
 Bible lesson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Lesson text (page 25) ◆ PSON1-2, PSON1-3, PSON1-4, PSON1-5 and PSON1-6 ◆ Costumes for Mary and Roman soldier (optional) ◆ Scroll ◆ Hay or straw 	<p>Lesson “Jesus, the Promised Saviour, is born” Teach the entire lesson, or one part each session. To allow your hands to be free for the activities within the lesson, you may want to display the flashcard visuals on an easel that is at eye level to the children.</p>
 Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Nativity stable and figures (pages 86-87) ◆ Questions (page 28) 	<p>Game “Add a figure to the nativity scene” After a child answers a question, he may place a figure in the nativity scene.</p>
 Gospel spotlight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Instructions (page 24) ◆ The pictures of the four coloured bells ◆ PSON-a, PSON-b, PSON-c and PSON-d 	<p>Spotlight “Gospel bells”</p>
 Snack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Snack of your choice (be sensitive to food allergies the children may have) 	<p>Break Take a toilet break, allowing the children to wash their hands.</p> <p>Prayer Lead in prayer, thanking God for the food.</p> <p>Snack Guide conversation to review the lesson. (Note: foods may be sampled during the lesson to enhance learning, but these should be very small portions and should not replace the regular snack time.)</p>
 Creative activity (choose one)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ PSON-R1, PSON-R2, PSON-R3, PSON-R4, PSON-R5, PSON-R6, PSON-R7 and PSON-R8 (pages 81-82), one set per child ◆ Crayons or markers ◆ Scissors ◆ Envelopes, one per child ◆ Student activity sheets, one per child ◆ Bits of hay ◆ Glue ◆ Play dough or clay (page 8) 	<p>Craft “John 3:16 games” Have each child colour and cut out a set of miniature verse symbols and put them in an envelope with his name on it. These can be used for a sequencing game to “read” the verse. (Most preschoolers cannot read words but can “read” pictures.) Add new pieces for lessons 2 and 3 as the verse is completed. If possible have the children practise saying the verse to each other after lesson 3 before sending the completed games home with the children.</p> <p>Activity sheet* “Jesus was born in a stable” Help the children to glue bits of hay on to the manger.</p> <p>Play dough “At the stable” Encourage the children to create something they would have seen at the stable the night Jesus was born: animals, baby Jesus, etc. As they do, use this time to review the lesson.</p>

Class schedule	What you need	What to do
 <p>Enrichment activity (choose one)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Costumes (eg halo for angel, scarf for Mary's head, robe for Joseph - see page 8 for ideas) ◆ Nativity figures (all figures except shepherd - pages 86-87) 	<p>Drama</p> <p>"Jesus is born"</p> <p>Have the children act out the story as you slowly retell it. Assign roles and have simple costumes available since preschool children enjoy being able to "dress up".</p> <p>Review</p> <p>"Character review"</p> <p>Assign each child a character in the story by giving him a nativity figure. Ask each child a question his character would be able to answer (eg ask Mary who told her she would be the mother of Jesus; ask Joseph who told him to take Mary as his wife; ask baby Jesus where He was born).</p>

*Available online at www.cefonline.com

Teaching the memory verse

Memory verse

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only ... Son ...”
(John 3:16)

Introduction

Do you like to get messages? Maybe you like to talk on the telephone or get letters in the post. It is nice to get messages from people who know and love you, isn't it?

Allow response.

God, Who knows and loves you the most, has a special message for you today!

Presentation

You live at an address. That is how the postman knows where to bring your letters, isn't it? Our verse lives at a Bible address - John 3:16.

Say the address together three times while opening and closing your hands like a Bible.

Have a child help you find the verse by opening your Bible to a marker placed at John 3:16.

Read the verse then show PS0N-n, PS0N-o, PS0N-p, PS0N-q and PS0N-r; or PS0N-R1, PS0N-R2, PS0N-R3, PS0N-R4 and PS0N-R5.

Explanation

For God so loved the world - God is the Creator. God made everything out of nothing - the sun (*point up*), Earth (*point down*), you (*point to children*) and me (*point to self*). God loves you and me so much (*hug self*)! Even though you and I sin and do things that make God sad, He loves us.

that He gave His only ... Son - God gave us a gift. The gift was His One and only Son, Who came to be your Saviour (the One Who would save you from your sins). Jesus was with God the Father in Heaven. He came to Earth to die on the cross as punishment for your sin and mine. On the third day He came alive again.

Application

Unsaved: Because God gave His own perfect Son, you can be forgiven for your sin. God wants you to receive this gift of forgiveness by believing (trusting) in Jesus as your Saviour.

Saved: If you have already believed in Jesus as your Saviour, you should thank God that He kept His promise to send the Saviour. Because Jesus died for your sins, you can live as God's child and go to Heaven someday.

Repetition

“Verse with actions”

Repeat the verse phrase by phrase while doing the actions (page 13). Then use the symbols to recite the verse.

Cut out the pictures of the four coloured bells.

Gospel spotlight

Gospel bells

Show the gold bell.

I have four bells in different colours to help you understand about believing in Jesus as your own Saviour from sin. The gold coloured bell reminds us of God and Heaven, His home where the street and city are made of gold. God, Who always knows the right thing to do and does it, is perfect. Heaven is perfect because God is perfect! God is the Creator, Who made the world. The Bible says, "For God so loved the world" (John 3:16). God loves the world He made - the fish, the flowers and especially the people! God loves you and wants you to be in Heaven someday. But you and I have a problem called sin.

Show the dark coloured bell.

The colour of this bell reminds me of sin, because living a sinful life is like being dirty or living in darkness. Sin is anything you and I think, say or do that does not please God. You and I were born wanting to do things our own way instead of God's way. That's why you do things God calls sin.

Share examples of sin or discuss flashcards PSON-a, PSON-b, PSON-c and PSON-d.

God says, "All have sinned" (Romans 3:23) and God must punish sin. Because of your sin, you deserve to perish (be away from God forever and not be in Heaven with Him someday).

Show the red bell.

This red bell reminds me that God loved you so much He sent Jesus, His own perfect Son, to bleed and die on the cross as punishment for your sin. Has a friend ever taken a punishment for you so you would not get the punishment yourself?

Allow response.

Probably not. But in a far greater way that is what Jesus did when He died on the cross. He took the forever punishment for your sin. The Bible says, "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us [makes us clean] from all sin" (1 John 1:7). After Jesus died, He was buried. But three days later He came back to life. Today He is alive in Heaven.

Show the white bell.

Now because of what the Lord Jesus has done for you, you can have your sins forgiven. The Bible says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only ... Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Do you know you have sinned? Do you believe Jesus died to save you from sin's punishment and came alive again? Then you can ask Jesus to be your Saviour and be forgiven. You will become a child in God's forever family and He will help you obey Him. Someday you will live forever with Him in His home in Heaven. If you would like to believe in Jesus as your own Saviour, I would be glad to help you (*designate time and location*).

Lesson - part 1

Has anyone ever made a promise to you? Maybe they promised that at the weekend you would go somewhere, or they promised to do something for you. It is great when people keep their promises, isn't it? But sometimes people cannot keep their promises. They want to, but something goes wrong or something happens that they cannot control and the promise is broken. There are even times when people deliberately break their promises.

The Bible, God's special Book that He has given to us, has lots of promises in it.

Show the children your Bible.

God has made these promises. God is very different from you and me. He is so powerful that He is able to keep all the promises that He has made.

God had made everything in the world perfect and good, but the first people, Adam and Eve, disobeyed God and everything in the world was spoiled. God promised to send Someone Who would save people from the punishment that they deserved. This special Person is known as the Saviour because He would save people. God kept this promise at exactly the right time. We find out in the Bible about the Saviour that God promised.

Mary was an ordinary young woman. She lived a long time ago in a town called Nazareth. She had a lot to look forward to because she was soon to be married to a man called Joseph. She was having a normal day. Maybe she was sweeping the floor or making bread.

Encourage the children to mime these actions - sweeping the floor and kneading bread.

Flashcard PSON1-2

Suddenly an angel appeared! That was a shock! Angels are God's messengers. How do you think Mary felt?

Allow response.

The angel had a special message for Mary.

"Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you" (from Luke 1:28). This means that God was pleased with Mary.

Mary was worried by what she heard. What sort of message was this?!

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary" (from Luke 1:30).

Mary must have felt a bit better after that. The angel then told her something amazing.

"You are going to have a baby, God's own Son. God has chosen you to be the mother of the promised Saviour. Name Him Jesus, for He will be great. He will be the Son of God" (from Luke 1:31-32).



Mary believed God's message and said, "I am the Lord's servant" (from Luke 1:38). She was saying she would do whatever God wanted her to do.

Part 2

The angel's news to Mary was very exciting. Can you imagine Mary thinking about this amazing news?



Act out the following. Maybe a helper could do this dressed up as Mary, as she excitedly thinks about what the angel said.

"An angel came to see me! He had a message for me from God. He said, 'God is with you. Don't be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You are going to have a baby, God's own Son. God has chosen you, Mary, to be the mother of the promised Saviour. Name Him Jesus, for He will be great. He will be God the Son. He will reign forever and His kingdom will never end.' This is the best news. I wonder what Joseph will think about it?"

Joseph was not so sure about this news. He was not sure what to do.



Flashcard PSON1-3

That night while he was asleep God sent an angel to speak to him in a dream.

God knew that Joseph did not know what to do. He loved Joseph and He cared about him and about Mary.

In the dream the angel said to Joseph, "Do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife. The child will be God's own Son. You are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins" (from Matthew 1:20-21).

If you have already asked Jesus to save you from your sins, you should thank God every day that He kept His promise and that Jesus saved you.

When Joseph woke up he knew what to do. He obeyed God and he and Mary were married.

Flashcard PSON1-4

Joseph was a carpenter. He made things out of wood.



Let's pretend that we are carpenters like Joseph pounding with our hammers and cutting wood with our saws.

Let the children pretend to be carpenters.

Part 3

God had promised to send a Saviour. He had also said where that Saviour would be born (Micah 5:2). He was to be born in a town called Bethlehem. But Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth. Was God going to keep His promise? Yes!



God even used the Roman emperor, Caesar Augustus, to make one of His promises come true. One day a messenger from the emperor came to Nazareth.



Read the following from a scroll. A helper could be dressed as a Roman soldier to do this.

“Your emperor, Caesar Augustus, says that everyone must go to the town that their family is from to be counted, so that the emperor can collect taxes (money) from the people.”

Joseph’s family were from Bethlehem, so he and Mary were going to have to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem. It was quite a long way and in those days there were no cars, trains or aeroplanes. If you needed to make a journey you had to walk. It was getting near to when Mary was going to have her baby, so maybe she was able to ride on a donkey for the journey.

Flashcard PSON1-5

It would have taken them several days to get to Bethlehem.



Pretend to gather supplies and travel to Bethlehem, stopping to eat and sleep on the way. If you have a large group you could get the children to move on the spot rather than around the room.

When they arrived in Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph had a problem. They could not find anywhere to stay. It was not a big town and lots of people had gone there to be counted. The inn (a place like a hotel) was full. It was getting near to the time for Mary to have her baby, so they had to find somewhere. Where could they go? What were they going to do?

Flashcard PSON1-6

Mary and Joseph stayed in the stable, the place where the animals were usually kept. There the baby was born. Mary wrapped Him in cloths and put Him in the manger.

The manger was the place the animals usually fed from. I expect that Joseph cleaned it out first.



Let’s pretend to sweep out the stable like Joseph might have done.

Have some hay or straw for the children to touch and smell.

God had kept His promise and had sent the Saviour. God always keeps His promises. God sent Jesus to be your Saviour. Years later Jesus died on the cross, was buried and came back to life again. When Jesus died He was being punished for the wrong things you and I have done. Sin is anything that we think, say or do that breaks God’s law. When you disobey mum or dad you break God’s law. Sin is also when we do not do the things that please God (James 4:17). The Bible says that everyone has sinned (Romans 3:23). If you believe in Jesus as your Saviour your sins will be forgiven and one day you will be with Jesus in Heaven.



God kept His promise by sending His own Son to be the Saviour for you and for me. No-one else could have been our Saviour. If you have already asked Jesus to be your Saviour, thank God for Jesus.



Say finger rhyme "Glad Christmas Day" (page 17).

Review questions

Memory verse

- 1 Who does God love? (All the people in the world - you and me.)
- 2 Who did God send as a gift to us? (His only Son, Jesus.)
- 3 Where was Jesus before He was born on Earth? (With God the Father in Heaven.)

Lesson (parts 1-3)

- 1 Who always keeps every promise He makes? (God.)
- 2 Where do we find out about God's promise to send a Saviour? (In the Bible.)
- 3 Who came to visit Mary? (An angel.)
- 4 What was the angel's message from God? (Mary was to have a baby.)
- 5 How did God tell Joseph what to do? (An angel told him in a dream.)
- 6 What name were Joseph and Mary to give the baby? (Jesus.)
- 7 Where was Jesus, the promised Saviour, to be born? (In Bethlehem.)
- 8 Why did Mary and Joseph have to travel to Bethlehem? (To be counted.)
- 9 What happened when they were there? (Baby Jesus was born.)

Gospel spotlight

- 1 Where is God's perfect home? (Heaven.)
- 2 What did Jesus do after He died on the cross and was buried? (He came alive again.)
- 3 What do you need to do to become a child in God's forever family? (Believe in Jesus as your own Saviour. *Use this question to review - tell God, "I know I have sinned and I am sorry. I believe Jesus died for my sin and came alive again. Please forgive my sin and make me Your child."*)

Lesson 2

Shepherds see Jesus

Scripture for teachers Matthew 1:21-23
Luke 2:8-20

Central truth God always tells the truth

Application Unsaved and saved: Believe what God has said about Jesus in the Bible

Memory verse “For God so loved the world that He gave His only ... Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish ...” (John 3:16)

Class schedule	What you need	What to do	
 Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Music CD and CD player Nametags (page 85), one per child Ball or other soft object 	Welcome Activity	Have soft music playing. Greet the children by name and give them their nametags. “Ball toss” Toss the ball or other soft object to each child. Ask the children different questions (eg “What is your name?” “What is your favourite snack?” “What do you like to watch on TV?” “What makes you afraid?”).
 Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Music CD and CD player; songbook or lyrics (pages 15-16) “I can know God” visualised song Offering basket or bank 	Song Prayer Song Offering	(CD: 13/34) “Jesus loves me” Lead the children in prayer: “Dear God, thank You that You love (<i>say each child’s name</i>) and thank You that You love me. Thank You, God, that You always tell the truth. In Jesus’ name. Amen.” (CD: 10/31) “I can know God,” chorus (twice) (Optional.) Pass around a basket or bank and let children give an offering. (Be sure to inform the parents how the money will be used.)
 Memory verse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSO-N-n, PSO-N-o, PSO-N-p, PSO-N-q, PSO-N-r, PSO-N-s and PSO-N-t Or PSO-N-R1, PSO-N-R2, PSO-N-R3, PSO-N-R4, PSO-N-R5, PSO-N-R6 and PSO-N-R7 (pages 81-82) Instructions (page 32) Actions (page 13) 	Verse Repetition	John 3:16 “Verse with actions”

Class schedule	What you need	What to do
 Stretch		Activity “Head and shoulders, knees and toes” The following may be spoken or sung to the tune of “London Bridge” while doing the actions: Head and shoulders, knees and toes, Knees and toes, knees and toes, Head and shoulders, knees and toes, Clap your hands and praise Him.
 Bible lesson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Lesson text (page 35) ◆ PSON2-3, PSON2-4, PSON2-5 and PSON2-6 ◆ PSON-a, PSON-b, PSON-c and PSON-d ◆ Music CD and CD player; songbook or lyrics (page 15) ◆ Soft toy sheep or a picture of a sheep (page 88) ◆ Costumes for different Bible characters and a doll wrapped in cloths 	Lesson “Shepherds see Jesus” Teach the entire lesson, or one part each session. To allow your hands to be free for the activities within the lesson, you may want to display the flashcard visuals on an easel that is at eye level to the children.
 Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Nativity stable and figures (pages 86-87), or flashcard PSON2-2 ◆ Questions (pages 37-38) 	Game “Shepherds come to the manger” Have the children line up at one end of the room, facing the nativity scene, or flashcard PSON2-2. They are the shepherds coming to see baby Jesus. Each time a child answers a question, the group takes one step closer to the manger.
 Gospel spotlight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Instructions (page 34) ◆ Music CD and CD player; songbook or lyrics (page 15) ◆ PSON-a, PSON-b, PSON-c and PSON-d (optional) 	Spotlight “The angel told the news” (song)
 Snack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Snack of your choice (be sensitive to food allergies the children may have) 	Break Take a toilet break, allowing the children to wash their hands. Prayer Lead in prayer, thanking God for the food. Snack Guide conversation to review the lesson. (Note: foods may be sampled during the lesson to enhance learning, but these should be very small portions and should not replace the regular snack time.)

Class schedule	What you need	What to do
 <p>Creative activity (choose one)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 23 cm (9") paper plates cut according to pattern (page 89), one per child ◆ Crayons or markers ◆ Glitter and glue ◆ Student activity sheets, one per child ◆ Cotton wool ◆ Play dough or clay (page 8) 	<p>Craft "Paper plate angels" The children can decorate the paper plates using crayons or markers and add sparkle with glitter and glue. The wings are formed by placing slit A into slit B. You may want to cut the paper plates according to the pattern before class since many preschoolers do not handle scissors well for intricate cutting projects.</p> <p>Activity sheet* "Shepherds were watching their sheep" Have the children add cotton wool to the sheep.</p> <p>Play dough "With the shepherds" Guide the children in making shepherd crooks or sheep as you review the lesson with them.</p>
 <p>Enrichment activity (choose one)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Nativity figures (use only Jesus in manger, Mary, Joseph and one sheep - pages 86-87), one set per child ◆ Extra nativity figures (optional - pages 86-87) ◆ Crayons or markers ◆ Scissors ◆ Craft sticks ◆ Glue ◆ Heavy sheet of paper, one per child (optional) ◆ PSON2-2, PSON2-3, PSON2-4, PSON2-5 and PSON2-6 (choose four) 	<p>Drama "Build a nativity scene" Give each child a set of figures to colour. The children can then cut out the individual figures and tape or glue them to craft sticks to make puppets. Your students would enjoy putting on their own "Christmas puppet show". If you do a puppet show, have the extra figures already mounted on sticks. The children may also glue the figures on a heavy sheet of paper to make a nativity scene.</p> <p>Review "Picture hunt" Post the flashcards on the walls at eye level to the children. Guide them in finding pictures you describe (eg "Find a picture that shows the night Jesus was born," "Find a picture of some people taking care of sheep").</p>

*Available online at www.cefonline.com

Teaching the memory verse

Memory verse

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only ... Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish ...” (John 3:16)

Introduction

Has anyone ever told you something that was not true just to see if you would believe it?

Allow response.

Maybe someone said, “I’m going to give you a big present,” but then he didn’t. I don’t like to get tricked like that, do you? God, Who knows and loves you, always tells the truth.

Presentation

In the Bible He tells about a gift for you. We can read about it in John chapter 3 verse 16. Let’s say that address, John 3:16, in a “Joseph” voice.

Repeat in a “Mary” voice and then a “baby” voice.

Have a child help you find the verse by opening your Bible to a marker placed at John 3:16. Read the verse then show PS0N-n, PS0N-o, PS0N-p, PS0N-q, PS0N-r, PS0N-s and PS0N-t; or PS0N-R1, PS0N-R2, PS0N-R3, PS0N-R4, PS0N-R5, PS0N-R6 and PS0N-R7.

Explanation

First we will review the part we learned last time.

Point to the symbols as you teach.

God loves you and me and all the people He created. God gave us a gift. The gift was His only Son to be our Saviour (the One Who would die for our sins).

Now we will add the new part:

that whoever believes in Him - “Whoever” means you or me or anybody. “To believe” is to be so sure something is true that you do something about it. You need to believe (trust) in Jesus, the Saviour, Who died on the cross as punishment for your sin and came alive again.

should not perish - “To perish” is to be away from God forever. This verse says those who believe in Jesus will not perish or be away from God.

Application

Unsaved: God wants you to believe in Jesus as your own Saviour so you will not perish but instead you will be with God in Heaven someday.

Saved: If you have believed in Jesus as your own Saviour, you know God's promise is true. God wants you to tell others that Jesus is the promised Saviour.

Repetition

“Verse with actions”

Repeat the verse phrase by phrase while doing the actions (page 13). Then use the symbols to recite the verse.

Gospel spotlight

“The angel told the news” (CD: 1/22)

Stand in a circle holding hands to sing the song. Walk around in the circle as you sing.

After each verse offer these brief explanations, and then sing the song all the way through. (Do not use the fourth verse of the song in this lesson - use it only in lesson 3.)

Verse 1 Joy is real and lasting happiness. “The Lord” is a name for Jesus. Jesus’ coming to Earth as a baby brought real and lasting happiness to everyone who believes in Him.

Verse 2 This verse tells us that Jesus is God’s Son. He is completely perfect. He never sinned.

Verse 3 Jesus came to save people. You and I are sinners. We have broken God’s law.

Give an example of sin (eg disobeying mum and dad) or discuss flashcards PSON-a, PSON-b, PSON-c and PSON-d.

When Jesus grew up, He died on the cross to take the punishment that you and I deserve. If you ask Him to forgive you and be your Saviour, He will.

Lesson - part 1

Have you ever been scared? Maybe you do not like the dark, or you do not like spiders. Sometimes even grown-ups are afraid. There were people in the Bible who were scared. Something happened that they were not expecting and that they had never seen before.

Flashcard PSON2-3

These people were shepherds out in the fields near the town of Bethlehem. They looked after their sheep all through the day and through the night. They needed to lead the sheep to clean water and grass to eat. They had to protect the sheep from wild animals that would attack the sheep. Sometimes if a sheep got lost or fell in a hole the shepherds would have to get the sheep out.



Pretend to be shepherds leading the sheep to fresh water or looking for a lost lamb. If possible hide a soft toy sheep in the room beforehand for the "shepherds" to find. Alternatively you could use a picture of a sheep (page 88).

It was night-time. There were stars up in the dark sky. The shepherds were watching the sheep to make sure they were safe. Maybe they were sitting round a small fire. That would keep them warm and frighten wild animals away.

Suddenly everything changed!

Flashcard PSON2-4

An angel, a messenger from God, appeared and God's glory shone around them. It must have been very bright.

Shield your eyes. Encourage the children to copy you.

The shepherds were terrified. They had never seen anything like this before.

The angel had a message from God. "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people" (from Luke 2:10).

What could this great news be that was for everyone - including you and me? Let's find out.

The angel said, "Today in the city of David a Saviour has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord. You will find the baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger" (from Luke 2:11-12).

Read this from the Bible. Explain that "Lord" is a title for Jesus, and "Christ" is another of His names.

God had sent an angel to give this message to the shepherds. God was telling them about the birth of the Saviour.

Suddenly lots of angels filled the sky. They were praising God, saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" (Luke 2:14).

Then the angels were gone. The sky was dark again.





Part 2

Flashcard PSON2-3

When the angels had left, the shepherds looked at each other.

“Let’s go to Bethlehem,” they said, “to see this baby that God has told us about” (from Luke 2:15).

This baby that the angels had spoken about was the Saviour that God had promised to send from Heaven. This promise was written in God’s Word, the Bible. You can trust what is written in the Bible, because God always tells the truth.

This baby was God’s own Son. He had come into the world to take the punishment that you and I deserve for the wrong things we have done. The Bible tells us that everyone has sinned - you, me and the shepherds that the angels spoke to. Sin is when we do things our way instead of God’s way.

Give some relevant examples (eg disobeying parents or hurting a brother or sister) or discuss flashcards PSON-a, PSON-b, PSON-c and PSON-d.

But God loves you and has sent Jesus, the Saviour, to rescue you from the punishment that you deserve.

It was this Saviour that the shepherds were going to see.



Pretend to be the shepherds getting ready to go to Bethlehem and hurrying there from the hillside.



As you do this sing “The angel told the news” (verses 1-3 - CD: 1/22).

Part 3

The shepherds arrived in the town of Bethlehem. Do you remember what they had been told to look for?

Let the children answer. Make sure they all hear the correct answer - the baby, wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.



Flashcard PSON2-5

They looked from place to place and then they found Him. The promised Saviour was there in a manger, just as the angels had said.

God always tells the truth. He sent His messengers to tell the shepherds about the Saviour. Everything they had been told was true.

How do you think the shepherds felt as they looked at the small baby lying in the manger?

Allow response.

The shepherds did not stay long.

Flashcard PSON2-6

They went about telling everyone what they had seen. Everyone that they told was amazed at what the shepherds were saying.

The shepherds returned to the hillside. They were praising God because everything that the angels had told them was true. On their way they told everyone that they met about the things they had seen.



Act out the shepherds telling the good news.

Say ...

“Have you heard the good news?”

“The angels told the good news.”

“We came to see and it’s true.”

“God’s promise has now come true.”

Children say ...

“The Saviour has been born.”

You and I can be sure that the story about Jesus coming into the world as a baby is true. Real people were there and they saw Jesus. The story is written in God’s Word, the Bible, and we can trust what is written in the Bible. Why? Because it is God’s Word and God always tells the truth.

Show the children your Bible.

You can tell others about the things you are learning about Jesus, just like the shepherds told others about the things that they saw that night.



To finish have the children act out the story. Have simple costumes for the different characters. Narrate the story (or have a helper do this) and read the dialogue from the Bible. Allow the children to play different roles by acting it out a couple of times. Adults could take the parts of Mary and Joseph and a doll could be wrapped in cloths in a manger. The children play either the shepherds or the angels, and then swap.



When the role-play is finished sing “The angel told the news” (verses 1-3 - CD: 1/22).

Review questions

Memory verse

- 1 Who always tells the truth? (God.)
- 2 What does “perish” mean? (To be away from God forever.)
- 3 Who will not perish? (Those who believe in Jesus as their own Saviour from sin.)

Lesson (parts 1-3)

- 1 Who were out in the fields near Bethlehem? (Shepherds.)
- 2 Who surprised the shepherds with a message from God? (An angel.)
- 3 What did the angel tell them? (“A Saviour has been born.”)
- 4 Where would the shepherds find the Saviour? (In a manger.)
- 5 What did the shepherds do? (They went to see the baby.)
- 6 Why did Jesus, the Saviour, come into the world? (To take the punishment that we deserve.)



- 7 Why do we deserve to be punished by God? (Because everyone has sinned - doing things our way instead of God's Way.)
- 8 What did the shepherds do once they had seen the Saviour? (They told everyone.)
- 9 How can we know this story is true (really happened)? (The shepherds saw Jesus; they were there and told others what they had seen; we can trust what is written in the Bible.)

Gospel spotlight

- 1 What is joy? (Real and lasting happiness.)
- 2 How can you and I have joy? (Believe in Jesus.)
- 3 Why do we need Jesus to save us? (We deserve to be punished by God because we have broken God's law. *Use this question to review - tell God, "I know I have sinned and I am sorry. I believe Jesus died for my sin and came alive again. Please forgive my sin and make me Your child."*)

Lesson 3

Wise men worship the Saviour King

Scripture for teachers Matthew 2:1-12
Numbers 24:17

Central truth Jesus is the King

Application Unsaved and saved: You should worship Jesus the King

Memory verse “For God so loved the world that He gave His only ... Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16)

Class schedule	What you need	What to do
 Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Music CD and CD player ♦ Nametags (page 85), one per child ♦ Road maps ♦ Suitcase with travel supplies 	<p>Welcome Have soft music playing. Greet the children by name and give them their nametags.</p> <p>Activity “Travelling game” Let the children act out things they would take on holiday. They can also talk about a trip they have taken. Show road maps and a suitcase of supplies if desired.</p>
 Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Music CD and CD player; songbook or lyrics (pages 16-17) ♦ “I can know God” visualised song ♦ Offering basket or bank 	<p>Song (CD: 10/31) “I can know God,” chorus (twice)</p> <p>Prayer Lead the children in prayer: “Dear God, thank You for loving us. Thank You that we can worship You by singing, praying and listening to stories. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”</p> <p>Action rhymes “Glad Christmas day” and “Glory to God”</p> <p>Offering (Optional.) Pass around a basket or bank and let children give an offering. (Be sure to inform the parents how the money will be used.)</p>
 Memory verse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ PSON-n, PSON-o, PSON-p, PSON-q, PSON-r, PSON-s, PSON-t and PSON-u Or PSON-R1, PSON-R2, PSON-R3, PSON-R4, PSON-R5, PSON-R6, PSON-R7 and PSON-R8, (pages 81-82) ♦ Instructions (page 42) ♦ Actions (page 13) 	<p>Verse John 3:16</p> <p>Repetition “Verse with actions”</p>

Class schedule	What you need	What to do
 Stretch		Activity “Head and shoulders, knees and toes” The following may be spoken or sung to the tune of “London Bridge” while doing the actions: Head and shoulders, knees and toes, Knees and toes, knees and toes, Head and shoulders, knees and toes, Clap your hands and praise Him.
 Bible lesson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Lesson text (page 45) ◆ PSON3-1, PSON3-2, PSON3-4, PSON3-5 and PSON3-6 ◆ “I believe the Bible” visualised song ◆ Music CD and CD player; songbook or lyrics (page 15) ◆ Something made from gold, some frankincense (or perfume) and myrrh (or something similar) 	Lesson “Wise men worship the Saviour King” Teach the entire lesson, or one part each session. To allow your hands to be free for the activities within the lesson, you may want to display the flashcard visuals on an easel that is at eye level to the children.
 Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Concentration stars (page 90), two sets of five ◆ Questions (pages 47-48) 	Game “Star concentration” Play as a matching game. Lay the stars on a table or the floor, picture side down. (For younger preschoolers leave them picture side up.) After a child answers a question, he turns over two cards. If they match, he leaves them picture side up. If not, he turns them over and the game continues. Play until each child has had a turn.
 Gospel spotlight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Instructions (page 44) ◆ Music CD and CD player; songbook or lyrics (page 15) ◆ PSON-a, PSON-b, PSON-c and PSON-d (optional) 	Spotlight “The angel told the news” (song)
 Snack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Snack of your choice (be sensitive to food allergies the children may have) 	Break Take a toilet break, allowing the children to wash their hands. Prayer Lead in prayer, thanking God for the food. Snack Guide conversation to review the lesson. (Note: foods may be sampled during the lesson to enhance learning, but these should be very small portions and should not replace the regular snack time.)

Class schedule	What you need	What to do
 <p>Creative activity (choose one)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Camel bodies (page 91), one per child ◆ Crayons or markers ◆ Scissors ◆ Spring-type clothes pegs, two per child ◆ Student activity sheets, one per child ◆ Large gold or silver adhesive stars, one per child ◆ Small gold or silver adhesive stars (optional) ◆ Play dough or clay (page 8) 	<p>Craft “Clothes peg camels” Guide the children in colouring and cutting out the camels. Attach two clothes pegs for the legs.</p> <p>Activity sheet* “Wise men travelled far to see Jesus” Guide the children in placing a large gold or silver star over the star the wise men followed. You may also want to let them add smaller stars to the rest of the sky.</p> <p>Play dough “Stars and camels” Have the children make stars or camels as you review what happened in the lesson.</p>
 <p>Enrichment activity (choose one)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Star (page 91) 	<p>Drama “Find the star” Hide the star in a visible place in the room so it is not too hard for a preschooler to find. Tell the children they should hunt for the star silently. When they find it, they should not say or do anything except sit down. When all the children have found the star, the child who sat down first gets to bring it to you.</p> <p>Review “Follow the star” Hold the star high in the air as the children follow you around the room, pretending to be wise men.</p>

*Available online at www.cefonline.com

Teaching the memory verse

Memory verse

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only ... Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16)

Introduction

Do you like to receive gifts? What do you think is the most important gift you have ever received?

Allow response. Show gift box with PSON-n, PSON-o, PSON-p, PSON-q, PSON-r, PSON-s, PSON-t and PSON-u; or PSON-R1, PSON-R2, PSON-R3, PSON-R4, PSON-R5, PSON-R6, PSON-R7 and PSON-R8 inside.

God has a wonderful gift for you, the most important gift you will ever be given!

Presentation

He tells about it in His book, the Bible. The address is John 3:16. Let's say that address while hopping on one foot.

Repeat while hopping on the other foot, then jumping with both feet.

Have a child help you find the verse by opening your Bible to a marker placed at John 3:16.

Listen for the new part that tells about the important gift!

Read the verse from your Bible then remove the visuals in order, one at a time, from the gift box.

Did you hear the part about the gift? What will we have? (Everlasting life.)

Explanation

Let's say the verse and think about what each part means.

Point to the symbols as you teach.

God loves you and all the people He created. But you and I have sinned. Even though you have sinned (done things that do not please God), He loves you. Jesus, God's perfect Son, died on the cross as punishment for your sin, then came alive again. If you believe (trust) in Jesus as your Saviour, you will not have to be separated (away) from God forever.

Here's the new part:

but have everlasting life - This is a new kind of life that starts when you believe in Jesus as your own Saviour and receive forgiveness for

your sin. God's Spirit comes to live inside you to help you. Then someday you will live with God in His home in Heaven.

Application

Unsaved: God wants you to believe in Jesus as your own Saviour and receive everlasting life. Then you will become a child in God's forever family.

Saved: If you have believed in Jesus as your Saviour, you should worship Jesus as your Saviour King. You can worship when you sing songs to Him.

Repetition

“Verse with actions”

Repeat the verse phrase by phrase while doing the actions (page 13). Then use the symbols to recite the verse.

Gospel spotlight

“The angel told the news” (CD: 1/22)

Stand in a circle holding hands to sing the song. Walk around in the circle as you sing.

After each verse offer these brief explanations, and then sing the song all the way through.

Verse 1 Joy is real and lasting happiness. “The Lord” is a name for Jesus. Jesus’ coming to Earth as a baby brought real and lasting happiness to everyone who believes in Him.

Verse 2 This verse tells us that Jesus is God’s Son. He is completely perfect. He never sinned.

Verse 3 Jesus came to save people. You and I are sinners. We have broken God’s law.

Give an example of sin (eg disobeying mum and dad) or discuss flashcards PSON-a, PSON-b, PSON-c and PSON-d.

When Jesus grew up, He died on the cross to take the punishment that you and I deserve. If you ask Him to forgive you and be your Saviour, He will.

Verse 4 “Royal” is a word we use to describe a king or queen. We talk about Jesus being royal because He is the King.

Lesson - part 1

What twinkles and shines in the sky at night? Do you sometimes look up at the stars at night?

Flashcard PSON3-2

Have you ever tried to count them or looked at them through a telescope to see them better?



Cup your hands as if holding a telescope and pretend to look at stars.

Allow response.

People who study stars are called astronomers.

Ask the children to repeat the name.

Astronomers make maps of the stars in the sky. They look at the sky at night and carefully draw where the stars are. Stars move and change and astronomers track those changes. They give stars special names. There have been people called astronomers for a long time. Even in the days of Jesus people looked at the sky and tried to see what the stars were doing.

There were some men living in a far-away country who liked to look at the stars at night. The Bible calls them Magi, or wise men. They were very interested in what happened in the sky.

Flashcard PSON3-1

One evening they saw something so unusual it made them realise that the star had a special meaning. A new King had been born in the country of Israel.

Where would you expect a new king to be born? The Magi expected that the new King of Israel would have been born in the important city of Jerusalem, so they got ready to go and worship Him there. It was going to be a long journey. They would need to take food, water, extra clothes and gifts for the new King. We do not know how many Magi there were or how they travelled but it is likely that they went by camel.



Pretend to pack for the journey, loading the camels with clothes and food and water for the journey.

Part 2

The Magi had a long journey to get to Jerusalem.

Flashcard PSON3-4

Have you ever been on a long trip somewhere? Maybe you were very impatient to arrive. The Magi really wanted to see and worship the new King, so they were willing to travel a long way.

Finally they arrived in the important city of Jerusalem. But how would they find the new King?



The Magi asked, “Where is the One Who has been born King of the Jews? We saw His star and have come to worship Him” (from Matthew 2:2).

Maybe the Magi asked the people they saw in the streets of Jerusalem. Maybe they asked in the market, “Where is the new King?”

Ask the children to repeat this phrase.

In the palace news of the Magi reached King Herod. King Herod was a very bad man. He did a lot of cruel things. Do you think he was pleased that a new King had been born? No! The Bible tells us that King Herod was troubled by what he heard (Matthew 2:3). He wanted to know what was going on. After all, he was the king and if there was a new King he wanted to know about it!

King Herod called together the chief priests and teachers of the law. These were men who knew what the Old Testament (the first part of the Bible) said about the things that would happen. They knew that God had promised to send a Saviour Who would be a King. Herod wanted to find out more.

“Where was the promised King to be born?” he asked the priests and teachers of the law.

Do you think they knew? They had the right answer.

“In Bethlehem,” they said, “just as it is written in the book of the prophet Micah” (from Matthew 2:5).

You may want to read Micah 5:2 from your Bible.

God had promised to send a Saviour Who would be a King and God had kept His promise. The King was not born in Jerusalem, but in Bethlehem. Do you know the name of the King? His name is Jesus.

Part 3

Have you ever done something secretly so no-one will find out? King Herod secretly called the Magi to come and meet with him.

Flashcard PSON3-5

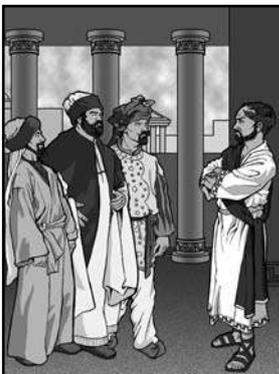
There was something he wanted to know.

“When did you first see the star that told you a new King had been born?” he asked them.

He was not happy about this new King, but he did not tell the Magi that. He told them a lie.

“Go and look carefully for the Child. Then come back to tell me exactly where He is. I want to worship Him” (from Matthew 2:8).

King Herod did not really want to worship the new King. He was angry and jealous. He sent the Magi on their way to Bethlehem and he waited for them to return.



The Magi now knew where to go. Their long journey was nearly over. Bethlehem is very close to Jerusalem, so the last part of their journey would not take them very long. Once they were on their way they saw the star in the sky. How happy they must have been. They knew they were on the right road! The star went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the new King was.

The Magi went into the house and there was Jesus, the new King with His mum, Mary.

Flashcard PSON3-6

The Magi had arrived sometime after the shepherds. Jesus was a little boy now, not a newborn baby. The Magi bowed down and worshipped Jesus.

Do you remember what the Magi had brought with them? Along with all the things they needed for the journey they had brought presents for Jesus. They were unusual but also completely the right presents to have brought.

The Magi worshipped Jesus and gave Him gifts that were fit for a King Who would one day die to save His people. They gave Him gold, frankincense and myrrh.



Have something made from gold and some frankincense (or perfume) and myrrh (or something similar) to show.

You and I cannot bring Jesus gold, frankincense or myrrh, like the Magi did. But if you have believed in Jesus as your Saviour you can worship Him as your King. You can worship Him in a song like this one.



Sing "I believe the Bible" verses 1 and 2 (CD: 8/29).

Now the Magi had worshipped the new King, it was time for them to return home. God knew that King Herod wanted to harm Jesus, so He warned the Magi in a dream not to go back to Jerusalem, so they travelled home by another road. How much they had to talk about on their long journey home! They had seen the new King that God had sent.

Have you believed that Jesus is the King sent by God to save people from their sin? Let's worship King Jesus now by singing about Him.



Finish by singing "The angel told the news" (CD:1/22).

Review questions

Memory verse

- 1 Who wants to give you everlasting life? (God.)
- 2 What is everlasting life? (Life as a child in God's forever family.)
- 3 Who can have everlasting life? (All who believe in Jesus as their own Saviour.)



Lesson (parts 1-3)

- 1 What shines in the sky at night? (Stars.)
- 2 What was the name of the men in our Bible lesson who looked at the stars? (Magi/wise men.)
- 3 What did the new star mean? (A new King had been born.)
- 4 Where did the Magi travel to? (Jerusalem.)
- 5 Who had kept His promise to send a King? (God.)
- 6 What was the name of this new King? (Jesus.)
- 7 How did Herod feel about the new King? (Angry and jealous.)
- 8 Where was the new King? (Bethlehem.)
- 9 What did the Magi do when they found King Jesus? (They gave Him gifts and worshipped Him.)

Gospel spotlight

- 1 Whose Son is Jesus? (God's Son.)
- 2 Why did Jesus come? (To save sinners.)
- 3 Why do we sing that Jesus is royal? (He is the King.)

Lesson 4

The boy Jesus grows

Scripture for teachers Luke 1:35
 Luke 2:39-47,51-52
 John 1:1-2

Central truth Jesus came to save people from their sin

Application Unsaved: Ask Jesus to save you
 Saved: If Jesus is your Saviour live to please Him

Memory verse "... The Father has sent the Son as Saviour of the world" (1 John 4:14)

Class schedule	What you need	What to do
 Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Music CD and CD player Nametags (page 85), one per child 	<p>Welcome Have soft music playing. Greet the children by name and give them their nametags.</p> <p>Activity "What daddies and mummies do" Have the children act out things daddies and mummies do (eg carpentry work, driving, cooking, walking the dog, washing the car, talking on the phone). Let the children suggest ideas.</p>
 Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Music CD and CD player; songbook or lyrics (pages 15-16) "I can know God" and "I believe the Bible" visualised songs Offering basket or bank 	<p>Song Prayer (CD: 10/31) "I can know God" chorus (twice) Lead the children in prayer or let them pray with you, phrase by phrase: "Dear God, thank You that You sent Jesus to Earth to die on the cross for us. Thank You that Jesus came alive again. Thank You for loving us. In Jesus' name. Amen."</p> <p>Song Offering (CD: 8/29) "I believe the Bible" (verses 1-5) (Optional.) Pass around a basket or bank and let children give an offering. (Be sure to inform the parents how the money will be used.)</p>
 Memory verse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSO-N-R9, PSO-N-R10, PSO-N-R11 and PSO-N-R12 (page 83) Instructions (page 52) Music and actions (page 14) 	<p>Verse Repetition 1 John 4:14 "Sing a verse"</p>
 Stretch		<p>Activity "Let's be daddies and mummies" Have the children pretend to be daddies and mummies as they exercise (eg walk or run on the spot; do jumping jacks, deep knee bends, sit-ups).</p>

Class schedule	What you need	What to do
 Bible lesson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Lesson text (page 55) ◆ PSON4-1, PSON4-2, PSON4-3, PSON4-5 and PSON4-6 ◆ PSON-a, PSON-b, PSON-c and PSON-d ◆ Music CD and CD player; songbook or lyrics (page 16) ◆ 1 John 4:14 music and actions (page 14) ◆ Photo of a baby (if possible a photo of yourself or your helper) 	<p>Lesson “The boy Jesus grows”</p> <p>Teach the entire lesson, or one part each session. To allow your hands to be free for the activities within the lesson, you may want to display the flashcard visuals on an easel that is at eye level to the children.</p>
 Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Boy and girl arrow (page 92) ◆ Growth chart (or a yard stick or tape measure) ◆ Questions (page 57) 	<p>Game “We’re growing”</p> <p>Tape the growth chart to a wall. After a child answers a question, he moves the arrow one step up the chart.</p>
 Bible spotlight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Instructions (page 54) ◆ Music CD and CD player; songbook or lyrics (page 15) ◆ A selection of items that help children grow strong and healthy, or pictures of these things (see suggestions on page 54) 	<p>Spotlight “What do we need to help us grow?”</p>
 Snack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Snack of your choice (be sensitive to food allergies the children may have) 	<p>Break Take a toilet break, allowing the children to wash their hands.</p> <p>Prayer Lead in prayer, thanking God for the food.</p> <p>Snack Guide conversation to review the lesson. (Note: foods may be sampled during the lesson to enhance learning, but these should be very small portions and should not replace the regular snack time.)</p>
 Creative activity (choose one)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Sheets of craft paper large enough for a child to lie on, one per child ◆ Crayons or markers ◆ Scraps of cloth or wool (optional) ◆ Glue ◆ Student activity sheets, one per child ◆ Small strips of paper, one per child ◆ Play dough or clay (page 8) 	<p>Craft “Body tracings”</p> <p>Have each child lie on a sheet of paper while you trace around him. Afterward he can colour in his facial features, hair, clothing, etc. You may also want to let him glue on scraps of cloth or wool.</p> <p>Activity sheet* “The boy Jesus grew”</p> <p>Help each child roll up a strip of paper and glue it to the picture as an extra scroll.</p> <p>Play dough “Carpenter tools”</p> <p>Guide the children in making carpenter tools. Talk about what each one is used for and tell how Jesus might have used it to learn to be a carpenter.</p>

Class schedule	What you need	What to do
 <p>Enrichment activity (choose one)</p>		<p>Activity “We’re growing” Have the children pretend to be a baby, then a toddler, then a preschooler doing common activities (eg eating - lying down and drinking from a bottle, sitting and eating with fingers, sitting and eating with cutlery; moving - crawling on tummy, creeping on hands and knees, walking; praying - saying “amen”, saying “God bless Mummy” and “God bless Daddy”, saying “Dear God, please bless my mummy and daddy. In Jesus’ name. Amen”).</p> <p>Activity “I can” Lead the children in considering all the things they can do now. Say “I can” followed by an activity (eg “I can stand up tall”, “I can count to ten”, “I can clap my hands”, “I can give a hug”). Have the children do each activity after you say it.</p>

*Available online at www.cefonline.com

Teaching the memory verse

Memory verse

“... The Father has sent the Son as Saviour of the world” (1 John 4:14)

Introduction

Do you sometimes help your parents do their work? Maybe mum says, “Go and get me a nappy for the baby.” Maybe your daddy says, “Go and get me a hammer from the workbench.” God the Father sent His Son, Jesus, to do a very important work for Him.

Presentation

The address in the Bible where we can read about Jesus’ work is 1 John 4:14.

Have a child help you find the verse by opening your Bible to a marker placed at 1 John 4:14. Read the verse.

Let’s say the address, 1 John 4:14, three times in a whispering voice.

Repeat in a normal voice then a loud voice. Show PSON-R9, PSON-R10, PSON-R11 and PSON-R12.

Explanation

The Father - God the Father, Who is in Heaven, made you and loves you.

has sent the Son - God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit together are God. He is one God in three persons. God the Father sent God the Son, Jesus, to do a work for Him on Earth. Jesus came as a tiny baby then grew to be a man.

as Saviour - Jesus lived a perfect life, then died on a cross as punishment for your sin and mine, then came alive again. Sin is anything you think, say or do that does not please God. All have sinned and need the Saviour (the One Who saves us from sin’s punishment).

of the world - The world means you and me and all people.

Application

Unsaved: God wants you to believe in Jesus as your own Saviour. When Jesus died on the cross, He took the punishment God gave Him for your sin. Then He came alive again. Jesus can forgive your sin if you believe in Him.

Saved: If you have already believed in Jesus as your Saviour, God wants you to grow as His child. He wants you to grow to be more like Jesus in all you think, do and say.

Repetition

“Sing a verse”

Sing the verse several times to the tune of “The wise man and the foolish man” while doing the actions (page 14). Then use the symbols to recite the verse.

Bible spotlight

“What do we need to help us grow?”

Have a selection of items that help children grow strong and healthy (or pictures of these things). Include things such as milk, bread, fruit and vegetables, rice and pasta, toothbrush, soap, books, toys, home, family, etc.

God has given us many good things to help us grow fit and strong.

Show items and talk briefly about them.

But if we really want to grow in a way that pleases God there are some other things we need to do. We are going to find out about them in a song.

Sing “Hear God’s Word” (CD: 7/28).

God’s Word is the Bible.

Show your Bible.

It tells us everything we need to know about God. It is a very special and important Book because it is God’s Word to us. There is no other book like it. When you are older you can read it for yourself. Before then you can learn part of it each time you come here. Maybe you can hear Bible stories at home. Make sure you listen to God’s Word.

You can talk to God too. We call that praying. You can pray anywhere and you do not need to use special words. God wants you to talk to Him. You can thank Him for the things that you have. You can say sorry to Him for the wrong things you have done. You can ask Him to help you.

Pray with the children, modelling a prayer like the one you just taught them about.

Remember you need lots of things to grow fit and strong and you need to read the Bible and pray too. How often should we do these things? Every day because they will help us to grow.

Sing “Hear God’s Word” again (CD: 7/28).

Lesson - part 1

Show a photo of a baby, if possible a photo of yourself or your helper. Ask the children to guess who is in the photo.

Were you ever a tiny baby? How did you get to be as big as you are now? What helped you grow?

Briefly discuss.

God made your body grow! God knows every muscle and bone in your body. He chose the colour of your hair, eyes and skin. He chose how your voice would sound and the way you would laugh. He chose how tall and strong you would be. God made you just the way you are! And He loves you just the way He made you.

You and I had a beginning, but God the Son has always existed. Before Jesus was born He lived with His Father, God, in Heaven.

Flashcard PSON4-1

When the time was right God the Father sent His Son to Earth as a baby. Jesus was God the Son in a human body. He came to do God's work on Earth.

Did you know that God is three in one? God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit together are God. He is one God in three persons. We can put His three names on three fingers to help us remember.

Repeat the names, holding up one finger for each.



Sing "Three in one" (CD: 21/42).

God the Father sent the Son to do a work for Him on Earth. That's what our verse says.



Sing 1 John 4:14 together while doing the actions.

So Jesus was born as a baby because God had sent Him to the Earth. Jesus had a job to do. He was sent to be the Saviour of the world. But He was just a tiny baby. Let's find out about how He grew.

Part 2

Flashcard PSON4-2

Jesus lived in a small town called Nazareth with Mary and Joseph. Let's say the name of the town together - "Nazareth." That is where He grew up.

The Bible tells us that He grew in four ways (Luke 2:52). He grew in wisdom (*point to head*), in His body (*flex muscles*), in getting along with other people (*wave and smile*) and in pleasing God (*bow head and fold arms*).

Jesus grew in wisdom (*point to head*). That means He learned to think and make choices. You are learning to think and make choices too, but sometimes you make a bad choice.



Give some examples (eg hurting a brother or sister, or not sharing a toy) or discuss flashcards PS0N-a, PS0N-b, PS0N-c and PS0N-d.

Jesus was perfect. He never sinned. He always made the right choices, even when He was growing up. He always lived to please God, His Father in Heaven.



Flashcard PS0N4-3

Jesus grew in His body (*flex muscles*). That means His body grew taller, bigger and stronger. When children grow they are able to do lots of different things. They learn to help and work. Jesus learned these things too. He learned to help Joseph who worked as a carpenter.

Jesus grew in getting along with other people (*wave and smile*). Jesus got on well with other people and He grew in favour with them - people liked Him, and liked having Him around.

Jesus grew up in a way that pleased God. He was perfect in everything He did. He never sinned. You and I cannot be perfect. We were born wanting to do things our way instead of God's way. When we disobey our parents or say unkind words we are breaking God's law and God calls that sin. God always punishes sin. But God loves you very much and sent Jesus to take the punishment instead of you. You can ask Jesus to be your Saviour and you can say "sorry" for your sin.

Part 3

When He was twelve years old Jesus went on an exciting trip with His mother and Joseph. Every year Mary and Joseph travelled from their home in Nazareth to the important city of Jerusalem to celebrate a special feast. Lots of people went, so Mary and Joseph travelled in a big group of people. When He was twelve Jesus was old enough to go with them.



Flashcard PS0N4-5

Do you think He was excited? The last time Jesus had been to Jerusalem was when He was a tiny baby so He would not be able to remember it. Now He was twelve He would see Jerusalem and the temple where people went to worship God.

It took several days to travel to Jerusalem because there were no cars or aeroplanes. Everyone would have to walk all the way and carry food and clothes.



Pretend to pack for the journey and then set off for Jerusalem stopping to eat and sleep on the way.

As the people travelled they sang songs.



Sing "God is so good" (CD:2/23) or have it playing in the background as you "travel" to Jerusalem.

At the temple (the special building where people worshipped God) Jesus talked with the teachers of God's law.

Flashcard PSON4-6

They were amazed at how much He knew. He asked questions and everyone who heard the things that He said were amazed at His understanding. Jesus had grown in wisdom (*point to head*). He knew that God was His Father and He lived to please Him. Jesus knew so much because He was God the Son. He had come to do God's work on Earth.

If you have asked Jesus to be your Saviour you can live to please God. That means doing the things that God wants you to do rather than doing things your own way. When you talk to God in prayer, ask Him to help you to obey your mum and dad. Ask Him to help you to say "please" and "thank you". God will hear your prayer.

When the trip to Jerusalem was over Jesus went back home with Mary and Joseph. He carried on growing and He lived to please God.

Review questions

Memory verse

- 1 Who is the Father Who sent the Son? (God the Father.)
- 2 Who is the Son? (Jesus, God the Son.)
- 3 What is the work that the Saviour did? (He died on the cross to take the punishment for your sin and mine.)

Lesson (parts 1-3)

- 1 Who makes your body grow? (God.)
- 2 Where was Jesus before He came to Earth as a baby? (With God in Heaven.)
- 3 Why did Jesus come to Earth? (To do God's work on Earth.)
- 4 Which town did Jesus grow up in? (Nazareth.)
- 5 Did Jesus ever do anything wrong? (No.)
- 6 Have you and I ever done anything wrong? (Yes.)
- 7 What happened when Jesus was twelve years old? (He went on an exciting trip.)
- 8 What did the teachers of the law think about Jesus? (They were amazed by how much He knew.)
- 9 If you have asked Jesus to be your Saviour, how can you live to please God? (By doing things God's way.)

Bible spotlight

- 1 What special Book has God given for us to read? (The Bible.)
- 2 How can we talk to God? (In prayer.)
- 3 How often should we learn from the Bible and pray? (Every day.)



Lesson 5

Jesus starts His work

Scripture for teachers Luke 3:21-22
 Luke 4:14-15
 Luke 5:1-11

Central truth God wants you to trust in Jesus and follow Him

Application Unsaved: Put your trust in Jesus as your Saviour and follow Him
 Saved: Follow Jesus by obeying Him

Memory verse "... I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God ..." (John 11:27)

Class schedule	What you need	What to do	
 Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Music CD and CD player Nametags (page 85), one per child Fish (page 85) with a paper clip and message (page 92) attached to each Fishing pole (string with a magnet on the end attached to a dowel rod) 	Welcome Activity	Have soft music playing. Greet the children by name and give them their nametags. "Catch a fish" Allow the children to use the fishing pole to take turns fishing. Read the message on each fish as it is caught. Continue until each child has had a turn, tossing the fish back as needed.
 Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Music CD and CD player; songbook or lyrics (pages 15-16) "I can know God" visualised song Offering basket or bank 	Song Prayer Song Offering	(CD: 10/31) "I can know God," chorus (twice) Lead the children in prayer or let them pray with you, phrase by phrase: "Dear God, thank You that You sent Jesus to Earth. Thank You that He chose helpers to follow Him. Help us be Jesus' helpers too. In Jesus' name. Amen." (CD: 7/28) "Hear God's Word" (verse 1) (Optional.) Pass around a basket or bank and let children give an offering. (Be sure to inform the parents how the money will be used.)
 Memory verse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSON-R13, PSON-R14, PSON-R15 and PSON-R16 (page 84) Instructions (page 62) 	Verse Repetition	John 11:27 "March a verse"

Class schedule	What you need	What to do
 Stretch		Activity “Head and shoulders, knees and toes” The following may be spoken or sung to the tune of “London Bridge” while doing the actions: Head and shoulders, knees and toes, Knees and toes, knees and toes, Head and shoulders, knees and toes, Clap your hands and praise Him.
 Bible lesson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Lesson text (page 66) ◆ PSON5-3, PSON5-4, PSON5-5 and PSON5-6 ◆ “I believe the Bible” and “I can know God” visualised songs ◆ Music CD and CD player; songbook or lyrics (pages 15-16) ◆ Apple ◆ Picture of a dove (page 93) 	Lesson “Jesus starts His work” Teach the entire lesson, or one part each session. To allow your hands to be free for the activities within the lesson, you may want to display the flashcard visuals on an easel that is at eye level to the children.
 Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Fish (page 85), one per child ◆ Blue wool ◆ Questions (pages 68-69) 	Game “Fish in the sea” Place a piece of blue wool across the flannelboard to represent water. After a child answers a question, he may place a fish in the water. Continue until each child has had a turn, repeating review questions as necessary.
 Gospel spotlight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Instructions (page 64) ◆ PSON-n, PSON-o, PSON-p, PSON-q, PSON-r, PSON-s, PSON-t and PSON-u Or PSON-R1, PSON-R2, PSON-R3, PSON-R4, PSON-R5, PSON-R6, PSON-R7 and PSON-R8 (pages 81-82) ◆ Microphone (optional) 	Spotlight “John 3:16”
 Snack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Snack of your choice (be sensitive to food allergies the children may have) 	Break Take a toilet break, allowing the children to wash their hands. Prayer Lead in prayer, thanking God for the food. Snack Guide conversation to review the lesson. (Note: foods may be sampled during the lesson to enhance learning, but these should be very small portions and should not replace the regular snack time.)

Class schedule	What you need	What to do
 <p>Creative activity (choose one)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Circle pictures (page 94), one set per child ◆ Construction paper, one sheet per child ◆ Crayons or markers ◆ Glue ◆ Scissors ◆ Student activity sheets, one per child ◆ Goldfish crackers ◆ Play dough or clay (page 8) 	<p>Craft “Where to tell others about Jesus” Trace each child’s shoe in the middle of his sheet of paper. Then have him colour and cut out the circle pictures (with or without the words). Let him glue the pictures around the shoe tracing.</p> <p>Activity sheet* “Jesus chose disciples” Let the children glue goldfish crackers in the net.</p> <p>Play dough “Fish for the fishermen” Have the children make fish as you review the events of the lesson.</p>
 <p>Enrichment activity (choose one)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Crumpled paper, assorted toys, dishes and other props as needed. 	<p>Activity “Loving work charades” Have teams of children demonstrate doing some kind of loving work while the rest of the group guesses what they are doing. Below are some examples.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Hugging a friend. ◆ Picking up rubbish and putting it in the bin. ◆ Cleaning up toys or dishes. ◆ Telling someone about Jesus. ◆ Opening a door and letting someone go first. ◆ Setting a table. ◆ Sharing a toy. ◆ Comforting a crying child. <p>Activity “What can we do?” Have the children decide what they can do in various situations (see above for ideas). For each situation have a child come and help you demonstrate then let the class answer. (For example say, “(Child’s name) is sad; what can we do?” and let the class give answers.)</p>

*Available online at www.cefonline.com

Teaching the memory verse

Memory verse

“... I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God ...” (John 11:27)

Introduction

I have a question and I hope you have the answer. Who is Jesus Christ?

Pretend to be a reporter as you quickly ask many children, using a microphone prop if available. Acknowledge each answer with only a nod.

Presentation

The Bible gives us a wonderful answer to that question in John 11:27. Tell me that Bible address while you cover one eye.

Repeat while covering the other eye, then both eyes.

Have a child help you find the verse by opening your Bible to a marker placed at John 11:27. Read the verse then show PSON-R13, PSON-R14, PSON-R15 and PSON-R16.

Explanation

I believe - “To believe” is to be so sure something is true that you do something about it.

Point to a chair.

If I say I believe this chair will hold me up but I will not sit on it, I don't really believe. If I really believe this chair will hold me up, I will sit right down.

Demonstrate.

“To believe” is to be so sure something is true that you do something about it.

that You are the Christ, the Son of God - God wants you to believe that Jesus Christ, Who died on the cross as punishment for your sin, is the Son of God.

Application

Unsaved: God wants you to agree that you have sinned by doing things that do not please God. God wants you to believe (trust) in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, Who died on the cross to take the punishment God gave Him for your sin and came alive again.

Saved: If you have already believed in Jesus Christ, God wants you to follow Him and do His work. One way you can

do His work is by telling others about Jesus. Maybe you can tell someone today!

Repetition

“March a verse”

March on the spot while “reading” the symbols. Then march around the room, repeating the verse. End each repetition with a clap. Change leaders after two repetitions and continue.

Gospel spotlight

Show flashcard PSON-n and PSON-o (or PSON-R1 and PSON-R2).

Do you remember what Bible address and words match these pictures? (John 3:16.) This gold circle reminds us of God, our great Creator, and His home in Heaven. The Bible says, “God ... made the world and everything in it” (Acts 17:24). Can you tell me something God created?

Briefly discuss.

Show flashcard PSON-p (or PSON-R3).

God was happy with all of His creation but He especially loved the people. God loves you and me. God made you just the way you are and God loves you just the way He made you! But God doesn't love everything you do. Sometimes you sin. You think, say or do things that do not please God.

Share the following examples of sin or discuss flashcards PSON-a, PSON-b, PSON-c and PSON-d.

Maybe when you are angry about not getting a toy you want at a shop, you think, “My mummy is mean to not get me that toy.” Maybe you say, “You're mean! I don't like you!” to your mummy. Maybe you start crying, fussing and yelling, “I want it! I want it!” These things do not please God. When you do these things, you sin. God must punish sin. John 3:16 calls that punishment “perishing” (being away from God forever). But God loves you so much, He made a way for your sin to be forgiven so you would not have to be punished.

Show flashcard PSON-q (or PSON-R4).

God gave His own perfect Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus was born as a baby and grew to be a boy, then a man. But He was different from every other child or adult. Jesus always did everything that was right. He did not sin - ever. He had no sin of His own, but He was willing to be punished for the sins of other people.

Show flashcard PSON-r (or PSON-R5).

The Bible says, “Christ died for our sins ... He was buried, ... He rose again the third day ... and ... He was seen” (1 Corinthians 15:3-5). Jesus bled and died on the cross to be punished for the sins of all the people in the world. After Jesus died, He was buried in a tomb but He did not stay dead. On the third day He came alive again! He walked around on Earth and talked to people. Jesus was really alive! Then He went back to Heaven.

Show flashcard PSON-s (or PSON-R6).

God says that if you believe (trust) in Jesus as your Saviour because He was punished for your sin, you will be forgiven.

Show flashcard PSON-t (or PSON-R7).

You will not have to be punished for your sin by being kept away from God and Heaven.

Show flashcard PSON-u (or PSON-R8).

Instead you will have everlasting life (life that will last forever) as a child in God's forever family, starting the moment you believe. You will be able to obey God and live as His child. Someday you will go to live with Him in Heaven. Do you believe Jesus died for your sins? I'll be happy to help you talk to Him about it (*designate location where children can be counselled*).

Lesson - part 1

Have you any idea what you would like to be when you grow up? Maybe you would like to do the same job as your mum or dad.

Let the children share ideas. Maybe you could tell them about what you wanted to do when you were their age.

Jesus had a special job to do when He grew up. It was something that no-one else could do. He had been sent from Heaven by God to do this special and important task.

By the time of our story Jesus was thirty years old. That is quite old, isn't it! He came to the Jordan River. A man called John was there, teaching people about God and baptising them in the water. John told the people that they needed to be sorry for the wrong things that they had done. The people who were sorry were baptised. They went into the water, were lowered under it and then brought back up again right away. They did this to show God that they were truly sorry for the wrong things they had done.

You and I have also done wrong things and we need to say "sorry" to God. When we say "sorry" to Him we should mean what we say.



Do a short role-play about being sorry. You and a helper could act a scene when one of you snatches an apple from the other, says "sorry" in an offhand way and then eats the apple.

Ask the children if they think the person who took the apple is really sorry. Talk about what would have happened if they had really been sorry (ie return the apple before taking a bite).

When you say "sorry" to God for your sin, it pleases God when you mean what you say.

Part 2

Jesus also came to be baptised. Even though He had never done anything wrong He wanted to show everyone that He was doing what pleased God the Father. As Jesus was coming up out of the water He was praying to God. Then something amazing happened. The Bible tells us that Heaven was opened and God the Holy Spirit came to rest on Jesus in the form of a dove.

Show a picture of a dove.

And God the Father spoke from Heaven. "You are my Son, whom I love. With You I am well pleased" (from Luke 3:22).

Jesus was a man and He was God the Son. He was completely without sin. Jesus had never thought, said or done anything that was against God's law, and God was pleased with Him.

Now Jesus' job began. Do you remember how old He was? He was thirty years old. Jesus began to go from town to town teaching people about God. On Saturdays He would go into the local synagogue (a place a bit like a church). In the synagogue part of the Bible was read

out and explained. Jesus would read from the Bible and then explain to the people in the synagogue what the Bible reading meant.

It is still important that we learn about God from the Bible. The Bible tells us the truth about God.



Sing "I believe the Bible" (CD: 8/29).

Part 3

Jesus was becoming famous. Wherever He went crowds of people would gather round to listen to what He had to say.

One day He was standing near Lake Galilee with the people crowding round Him as He taught them about God. Can you imagine the crowd of people all pushing to get as close as possible to Jesus? Maybe some of them were standing on tiptoe.



Ask the children to stand on tiptoe as if they are trying to see and listen to Jesus speaking.

Then Jesus had an idea. He saw two empty boats near the lake shore. The fishermen had left them there while they washed their fishing nets. Jesus got into one of the boats. It belonged to a man called Simon. Jesus asked him to push it out into the lake a little bit.

Flashcard PSON5-3

Then Jesus sat down in the boat and carried on teaching the people.

When Jesus had finished speaking to the crowd He turned to Simon (who owned the boat) and said, "Launch out into deep water, and let down your nets for a catch of fish" (from Luke 5:4).

Simon replied, "Master, we've worked hard all night and have not caught a thing. But because You say so, I'll let down the net" (from Luke 5:5).

So Simon and his brother, Andrew, went in the boat into the deeper water of the lake.

Flashcard PSON5-4

They threw their fishing net over the side of the boat and they caught a huge number of fish - so many that their net began to break.



Allow the children to act this.

They had to call to their friends with another boat to come and join them to help.



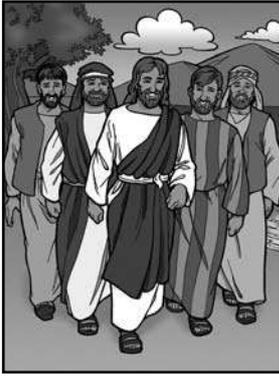
Ask the children to do a beckoning action.

Both of the boats were so full of fish that they began to sink.

When Simon saw how many fish there were he knew that Jesus was no ordinary man. He knew that he, Simon, was a sinner.

Jesus said to him, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men" (from Luke 5:10).





Flashcard PSON5-5

Simon and his friends (Andrew, James and John) left everything and followed Jesus. Let's say their names together.

They were not following just anyone - they were following God the Son.

You, like them, can be a follower of Jesus.

 Sing "I can know God" (CD: 10/31).

To become a follower of Jesus there is something you need to do. Just like Simon in the story you need to understand that you have done wrong things. You need to say "sorry" for your sin and trust in Jesus as your Saviour. Then you can follow Jesus. "Following Jesus" means that you live in a way that pleases God.



Flashcard PSON5-6

You can tell others about Him. Ask Him to help you to follow Him.

Review questions

Memory verse

- 1 Who is Jesus Christ? (The Son of God.)
- 2 What does "believe" mean? (To be so sure something is true that you do something about it.)
- 3 Who needs to know about Jesus? (Everyone.)

Lesson (parts 1-3)

- 1 How old was Jesus in our Bible lesson? (Thirty years old.)
- 2 Why were people being baptised? (They were showing that they were sorry for their sin/the wrong things they had done.)
- 3 You and I have done wrong things. Who do we need to say sorry to? (God.)
- 4 Jesus was baptised too. What wrong things had He done? (Nothing - He never sinned.)
- 5 What did Jesus do as He travelled from place to place? (He told people about God.)
- 6 How can we find out about God today? (Answers will vary - eg in *Good News Club*®, at church. Make sure you mention reading the Bible.)
- 7 What did Jesus sit in to teach the crowd? (A boat.)
- 8 How can you become a follower of Jesus? (By being sorry for your sin and trusting in Jesus as your Saviour.)
- 9 What were the names of the four men in the Bible lesson who followed Jesus? (Simon, Andrew, James and John. Be willing to accept two names rather than all of them.)

Gospel spotlight

- 1 What is sin? (Anything you think, say or do that does not please God.)
- 2 Who died on the cross to take the punishment for your sin? (Jesus.)
- 3 What do you need to do to become a child in God's forever family? (Believe in Jesus as your own Saviour. *Use this question to review - tell God, "I know I have sinned and I am sorry. I believe Jesus died for my sin and came alive again. Please forgive my sin and make me Your child."*)

Lesson 6

Matthew and his friends meet Jesus

Scripture for teachers Luke 5:1-11
 Luke 5:27-32
 Luke 6:12-16

Central truth God wants you to be a follower of Jesus

Application Unsaved: Ask Jesus to be your Saviour and follow Him
 Saved: Follow Jesus by learning from the Bible and praying

Memory verse Review John 11:27

Class schedule	What you need	What to do	
 Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Music CD and CD player Nametags (page 85), one per child Place mats Paper plates, cups, cutlery and napkins 	Welcome Activity	Have soft music playing. Greet the children by name and give them their nametags. “Let’s set the table” Teach the children the proper way to set the table and let them practise.
 Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Music CD and CD player; songbook or lyrics (pages 15-16) “I can know God” visualised song Offering basket or bank 	Song Prayer Song Offering	(CD: 10/31) “I can know God,” chorus (twice) Lead the children in prayer or let them pray with you, phrase by phrase: “Dear God, thank You that You sent Jesus to die on the cross for my sins. Thank You that I can tell others about Jesus. In Jesus’ name. Amen.” (CD: 7/28) “Hear God’s Word” (Optional.) Pass around a basket or bank and let children give an offering. (Be sure to inform the parents how the money will be used.)
 Memory verse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSO-N-R13, PSO-N-R14, PSO-N-R15 and PSO-N-R16 (page 84) Instructions (page 74) 	Verse Repetition	John 11:27 “March a verse”
 Stretch		Activity	“Go tell someone” Moving around the perimeter of the room, have the children do actions that could take them to someone who needs to know how Jesus died on the cross and came alive again (eg walking, running, hopping, skipping).

Class schedule	What you need	What to do
 Bible lesson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Lesson text (page 77) ◆ PSON6-1, PSON6-2, PSON6-3, PSON6-4 and PSON6-5 ◆ “I can know God” visualised song ◆ Music CD and CD player; songbook or lyrics (page 16) ◆ Coins (real or plastic) ◆ Tablecloth and pretend or real food 	<p>Lesson “Matthew and his friends meet Jesus”</p> <p>Teach the entire lesson, or one part each session. To allow your hands to be free for the activities within the lesson, you may want to display the flashcard visuals on an easel that is at eye level to the children.</p>
 Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Cloth bag, preferably one with a drawstring ◆ Coins (real or plastic) ◆ Questions (pages 79-80) 	<p>Game “Fill the money bag with taxes”</p> <p>After a child answers a question, he places a coin in the money bag. When the game is over, let the children shake the money bag and hear it jingle.</p>
 Gospel spotlight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Instructions (page 76) ◆ “I believe the Bible” visualised song ◆ Music CD and CD player ◆ PSON-a, PSON-b, PSON-c and PSON-d (optional) 	<p>Spotlight “I believe the Bible” (CD: 8/29)</p>
 Snack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Snack of your choice (be sensitive to food allergies the children may have) 	<p>Break Take a toilet break, allowing the children to wash their hands.</p> <p>Prayer Lead in prayer, thanking God for the food.</p> <p>Snack Guide conversation to review the lesson. (Note: foods may be sampled during the lesson to enhance learning, but these should be very small portions and should not replace the regular snack time.)</p>
 Creative activity (choose one)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ “I believe the Bible” take-home visuals (pages 95-96), one set per child ◆ Crayons or markers ◆ Scissors ◆ Craft sticks, six per child ◆ Glue or tape ◆ Student activity sheets, one per child ◆ Flavouring extract (eg orange, almond, peppermint) ◆ Play dough or clay (page 8) ◆ Circular pastry cutters 	<p>Craft “I believe the Bible take-home visuals”</p> <p>Give each child a set of visuals. Let the children colour and mount them on craft sticks. Teach them to use the visuals for singing the song, as well as for a witnessing tool.</p> <p>Activity sheet* “Matthew and his friends met Jesus”</p> <p>Place a drop of flavouring extract on each child’s finger and let him use that finger to touch the food in the picture.</p> <p>Play dough “Coins for taxes”</p> <p>You may want to have circular pastry cutters the children can use to form coins. Review the lesson as they make their coins. Have the children pay a pretend tax with their coins as they clean up.</p>

Class schedule	What you need	What to do
 <p>Enrichment activity (choose one)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Footprints (page 97), eight ◆ Masking tape ◆ Music CD and CD player ◆ “I believe the Bible” visualised song 	<p>Activity</p> <p>“Go and tell”</p> <p>Tape the footprints to the floor in a step sequence, four on one side and four on the other, facing each other. Line the children up, half at one end of the line of footprints, half at the other. Have one child from each side walk to the centre, shake hands with the other child and say one of the following Gospel truths. Continue until each child has had a turn.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ God loves you. ◆ Jesus died for you. ◆ Jesus came alive again. <p>Activity</p> <p>“I believe”</p> <p>Have six children hold the “I believe the Bible” visuals. Sing the song (CD: 8/29), stopping after each verse to ask the children what they believe (eg “What do you believe about the Bible?”). Encourage the children to tell someone else what they believe.</p>

*Available online at www.cefonline.com

Teaching the memory verse

Memory verse

“... I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God ...” (John 11:27)

Introduction

What kind of work does your daddy or mummy do? Do you want to do that kind of work when you grow up?

Briefly discuss.

In Bible times most sons grew up to do their daddy's work. That was true of Jesus too! Whose Son is Jesus Christ? (God's.)

Presentation

We will find the answer at a Bible address - John 11:27. Pretend to walk then freeze in position when I say “freeze.”

Walk on the spot then call out “freeze”.

Ask what Bible address you are going to and let the children say, “John 11:27.” Repeat with jogging and running. Have a child help you find the verse by opening your Bible to a marker placed at John 11:27. Read the verse then show PSON-R13, PSON-R14, PSON-R15 and PSON-R16.

Explanation

I believe - “To believe” is to be so sure something is true that you do something about it. I have something good for you to eat; do you believe me?

Have a bag of small sweets hidden nearby.

Prove you believe me by closing your eyes and holding out your hand.

Place a sweet in the hands of children responding.

Some of you believed. To believe is to be so sure something is true that you do something about it.

Give another opportunity to the non-responders.

God wants you to believe Jesus Christ, Who was born as a baby in the manger, is the perfect Son of God. He grew up to die on a cross as punishment for sin and came alive again.

Application

Unsaved: Do you believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God? Do you believe He died on the cross to take the punishment God gave Him for your sin (bad things you think, say

or do) and came alive again? God wants you to receive Jesus so you can be forgiven and become God's child.

Saved: If you have already received Jesus, live as God's child by telling others Who Jesus is and what He did for you.

Repetition

“March a verse”

March on the spot while “reading” the symbols. Then march around the room, repeating the verse. End each repetition with a clap. Change leaders after two repetitions and continue.

Gospel spotlight

“I believe the Bible” (CD: 8/29)

Sing together while showing the visualised song. Pause after each verse to give the following explanations.

Verse 1 The Bible is God’s Word to you. God wants you to know that He made you and loves you (1 John 4:10). God wants you to be in His forever family and live with Him in Heaven someday.

Verse 2 Jesus is God’s Son, Who came to Earth. He was born as a baby and grew to be a man. He always did everything that was right. He was perfect in every way. He did not sin - not one single time.

Verse 3 But you and I have sinned. We think, say and do things that God calls sin.

Share the following examples of sin or discuss flashcards PSON-a, PSON-b, PSON-c and PSON-d.

Maybe when daddy says, “Put away your toys, it’s time for bed,” you think, “I don’t want to stop playing and I don’t have to.” Maybe you say, “No, I don’t want to!” Maybe you stamp your foot and make a mean face. Doing those things is sin because disobeying your parents is disobeying God. God says, “All have sinned” (Romans 3:23).

Verse 4 Sin must be punished. Jesus loved you so much that He died on the cross as punishment for your sin. God says Jesus’ blood will make you clean from your sin. You must believe He took your punishment and receive Him as your own Saviour (1 John 1:7).

Verse 5 Jesus came alive again on the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3-5). Coming alive again showed Jesus had finished taking the punishment God gave Him for all our sin. He walked, talked and ate food and was seen by many people. Then He returned to Heaven to get special homes ready for those who receive Him.

Verse 6 When you receive Jesus as your Saviour, you will be forgiven. You will receive everlasting life as a child in God’s forever family (John 1:12). You will have God the Holy Spirit living in you to help you obey God. You will be saved from sin’s punishment because Jesus was punished instead of you! Do you want to receive Jesus as your own Saviour and become God’s child? If you would like me to help you, meet me (*designate location where children can be counselled*).

Lesson - part 1

Have you ever played “Follow the leader”?



Play the game with the children. Demonstrate an action and have the children do what you do. If you have a small group you could do this by having the children make a line behind you and follow you around the room. Otherwise let them copy your actions on the spot. End the game and make sure the children are settled before you continue with the lesson.

You have been learning to be good followers. Followers are people who do what someone else has done or follow their instructions, just like you did!

Jesus chose people to follow Him and learn from Him. Four of them were fishermen. Do you remember their names? (Simon, Andrew, James and John.) Jesus had used one of their boats to sit in while He taught the crowd of people about God. He had told Simon to launch out his boat into the deep water of Lake Galilee and they had caught an enormous number of fish. Do you remember what happened next? Jesus told the four men to follow Him and they did.

Flashcard PSON6-1

Simon, Andrew, James and John could actually follow Jesus by being with Him, walking with Him and talking with Him.

We cannot walk around with Jesus the way that they did. But we can still follow Him. But why should we follow Jesus? We should follow Him because He is God the Son. How do you begin to follow Him? You begin to follow Him by putting your trust in Him as your Saviour. You need Him to save you because you have broken God’s law. You have done things that God calls sin.

Give some examples.

You need to ask Jesus to be your Saviour. Then you can follow Him by doing things that please Him. It pleases Jesus when you talk to God in prayer. It pleases Him when you are kind and thoughtful. It pleases Him when you tell other people about Him. Even though we cannot see Jesus with our eyes, we can follow Him.

Part 2

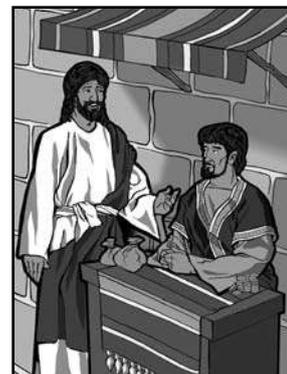
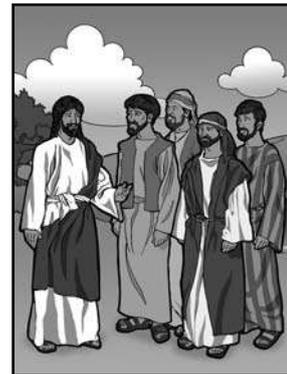
Flashcard PSON6-2

One day Jesus saw a man called Matthew sitting in his tax office. Matthew was a tax collector. His job was to collect tax money from the people. He would then give that money to the Roman government that was in charge. The Romans used the tax money to pay for roads to be built and to pay the soldiers. The tax collector told the people how much they had to pay.



You could act out Matthew sitting at his tax booth, taking money from people. Hand out coins to the children that they then take to Matthew.

You can use the visuals from lesson five to remind the children of the story.



Do you think that people liked Matthew and the other tax collectors? They did not like them very much. A lot of people thought that Matthew and the other tax collectors were very bad men because they worked for the Romans and sometimes they took more money than they needed and then kept some of it for themselves.

But Jesus cared about Matthew and He spoke to him. Jesus said, "Follow me" (Luke 5:27).

What do you think Matthew did? The Bible tells us that Matthew got up, left everything and followed Jesus.



Flashcard PSON6-3

Matthew had a big banquet for Jesus at his house. A banquet is a special meal. Matthew invited his friends. A lot of them were tax collectors too.



Have a tablecloth laid out on the floor. Use either pretend or real food to have a banquet together. Explain to the children that this was what Jesus did at Matthew's house.

Part 3

Do you think that Matthew enjoyed having Jesus at his house for a special meal? It must have been really wonderful.



Flashcard PSON6-5

But some people were not at all happy about it. They were called Pharisees.

Ask children to repeat the name.

The Pharisees believed that only good people were important to God. They came to speak with Jesus' followers.

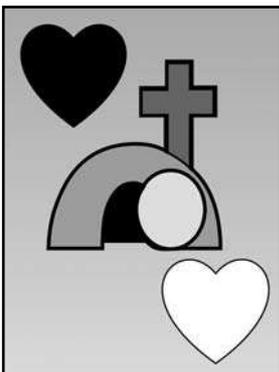
"Why do You eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" they complained (from Luke 5:30).

The Pharisees thought that if Jesus was the Son of God He should not have anything to do with people like Matthew. But Jesus loved Matthew and cared about him.

Jesus said to the Pharisees, "It is not healthy people who need a doctor but the sick. I have come to call sinners to be sorry for their sins" (from Luke 5:31-32).

Matthew was a sinner who needed to follow Jesus. Jesus forgave Matthew's sin. You and I are sinners and we need to follow Jesus too. You start by putting your trust in Him as your Saviour. Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment that you deserve. He came to Earth to save sinners like you and me. He is the only One Who can save us from the punishment that we deserve. You need to pray to God and say "sorry" for your sin and ask Jesus to save you.

Flashcard PSON6-4 can be used to help explain these Gospel truths.



So far we have learned about five followers of Jesus - Simon, Andrew, James, John and Matthew. There were others too.

One day Jesus went up the side of a mountain to pray. He spent the whole night praying to God. He chose people who would be His special followers. Altogether He chose twelve. They were going to be able to tell others about Him and even write down the things Jesus said and did so that people like us could read about Jesus from the Bible.

Read the list of names from Luke 6:14-16.

These twelve men followed Jesus. Like them, you can follow Him when you trust Him as your Saviour.



Finish by singing "I can know God" (CD: 10/31).

Review questions

Memory verse

- 1 Who is the Son of God? (Jesus Christ.)
- 2 What does "believe" mean? (To be so sure something is true that you do something about it.)
- 3 Why could Jesus take the punishment for other people's sins? (He had no sin of His own; He was perfect.)

Lesson (parts 1-3)

- 1 Why should we follow Jesus? (He is God the Son.)
- 2 How do we begin to follow Jesus? (By putting our trust in Him as our Saviour.)
- 3 Why do we need Jesus to be our Saviour? (We have all broken God's law and deserve to be punished.)
- 4 What was the name of the tax collector? (Matthew.)
- 5 What did Jesus think of Matthew? (He cared about Matthew.)
- 6 What did Matthew have at his house? (A banquet for Jesus.)
- 7 What could only Jesus do for Matthew? (Forgive his sin.)
- 8 How many followers/disciples were there altogether? (Twelve.)
- 9 How can we be like the twelve followers/disciples of Jesus? (We can follow Him.)

Gospel spotlight

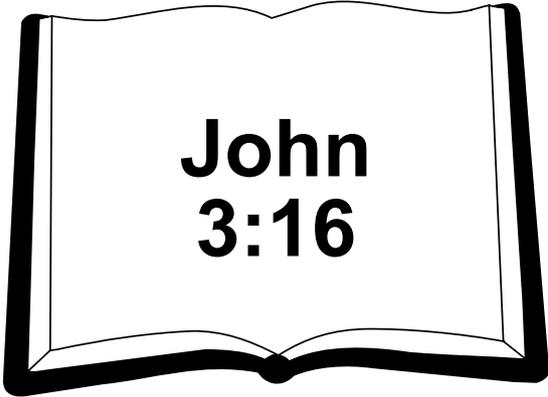
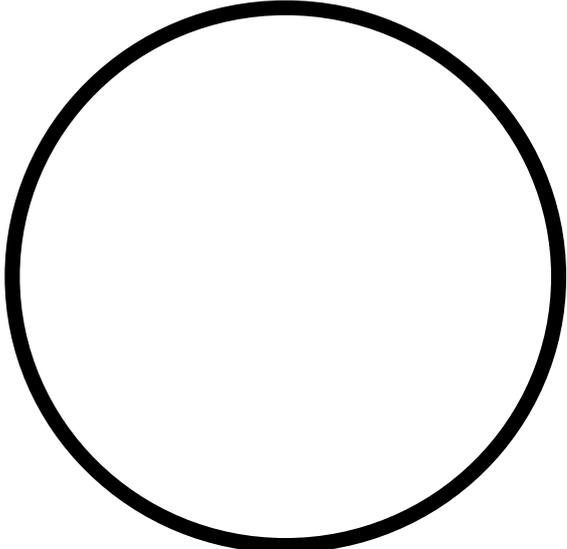
- 1 What is one way children your age sin? (Answers will vary. Examples could include disobeying, saying "no" to parents, etc.)
- 2 Why can you be saved from sin's punishment? (Jesus was punished for your sin.)

- 3 What do you need to do to become a child in God's forever family?
(Receive Jesus as your own Saviour. *Use this question to review - tell God, "I know I have sinned and I am sorry. I believe Jesus died for my sin and came alive again. Please forgive my sin and make me Your child."*)

Memory verse symbols

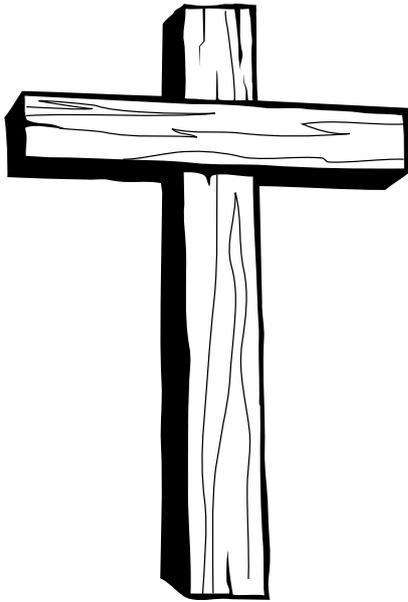
Lessons 1-3

Photocopy, colour and cut out the verse symbols. For suggestions on usage, see tips under “Use a variety of visuals” (page 5).

 <p data-bbox="438 1191 590 1227">"John 3:16"</p> <p data-bbox="719 1202 810 1225">PSON-R1</p>	 <p data-bbox="1034 1191 1268 1227">"For God so loved"</p> <p data-bbox="1355 1202 1445 1225">PSON-R2</p>
 <p data-bbox="443 1982 587 2018">"the world"</p> <p data-bbox="719 1989 810 2011">PSON-R3</p>	 <p data-bbox="1061 1982 1241 2018">"that He gave"</p> <p data-bbox="1355 1989 1445 2011">PSON-R4</p>

Memory verse symbols (continued)

Lessons 1-3



“His only ... Son,”

PSON-R5



“that whoever
believes in Him”

PSON-R6



“should not perish”

PSON-R7



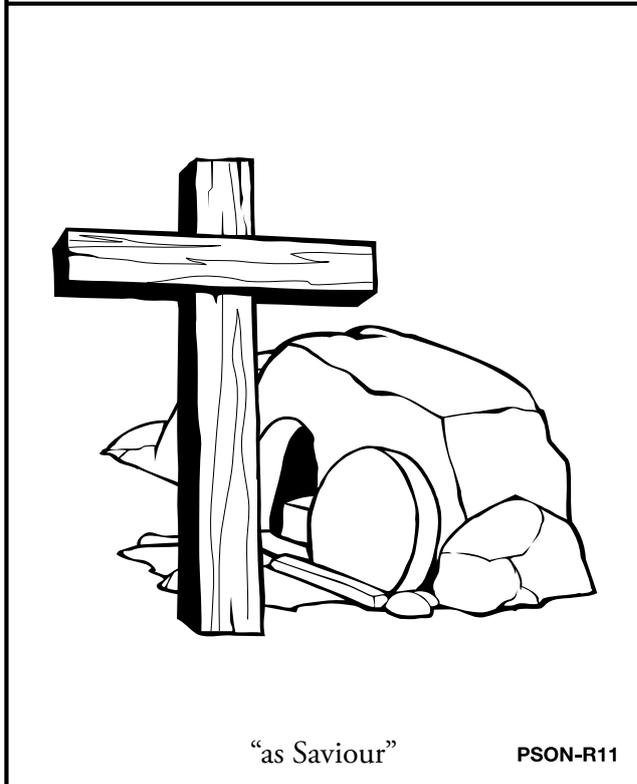
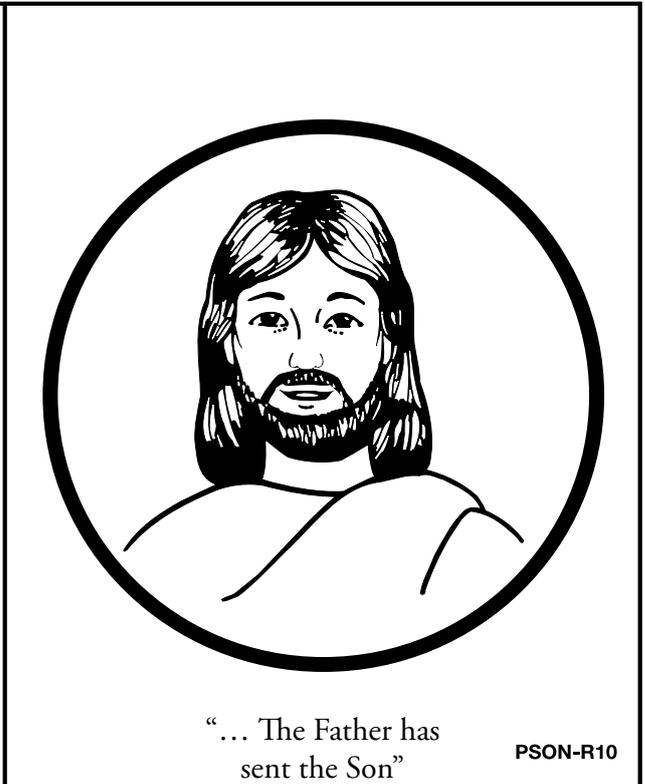
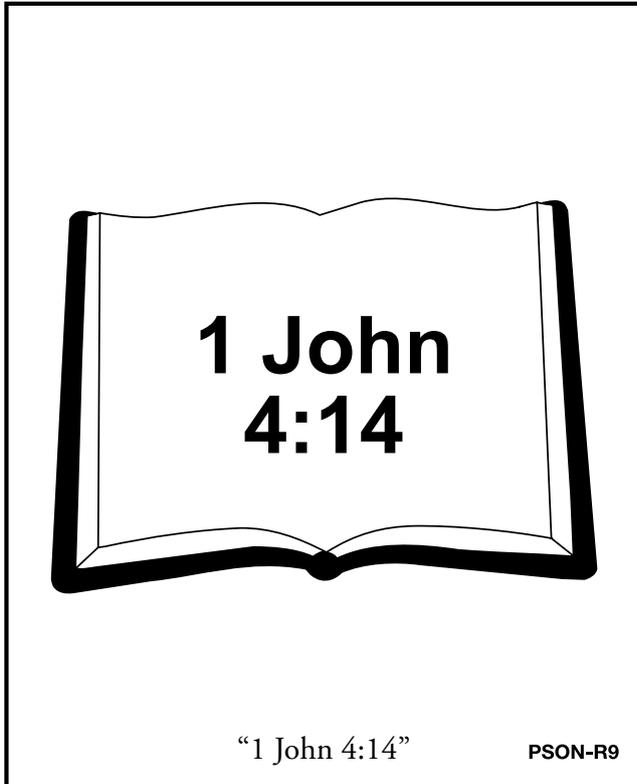
“but have everlasting life.”

PSON-R8

Memory verse symbols

Lesson 4

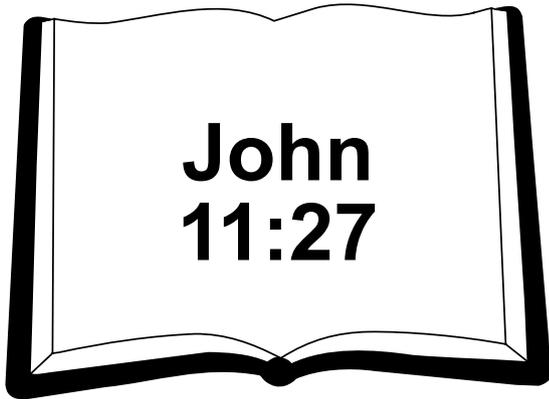
Photocopy, colour and cut out the verse symbols. For suggestions on usage, see tips under “Use a variety of visuals” (page 5).



Memory verse symbols

Lessons 5-6

Photocopy, colour and cut out the verse symbols. For suggestions on usage, see tips under “Use a variety of visuals” (page 5).



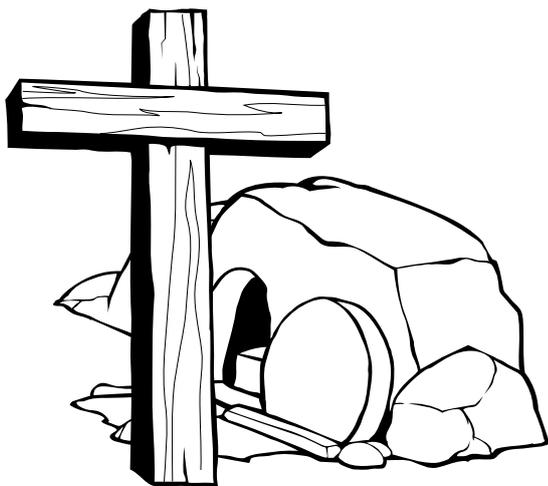
“John 11:27”

PSON-R13



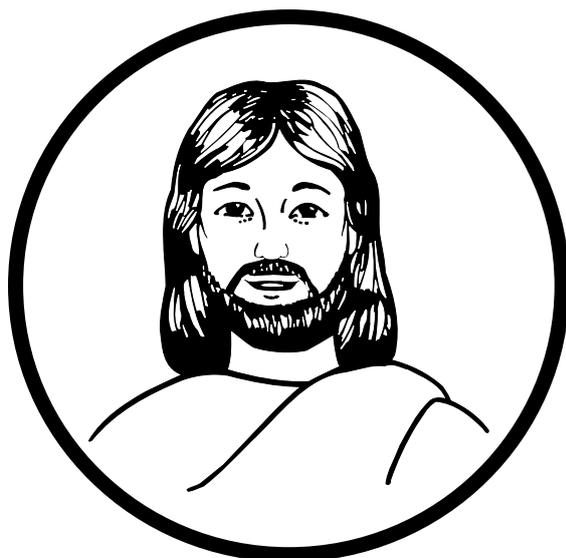
“... I believe”

PSON-R14



“that You are the Christ,”

PSON-R15



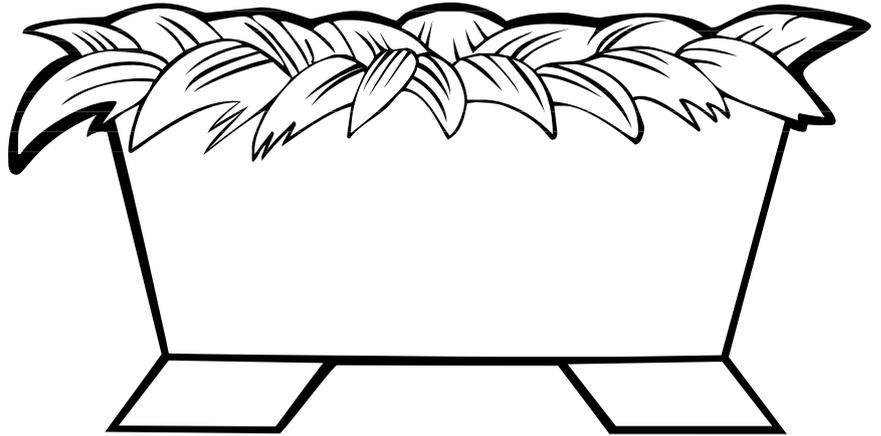
“the Son of God ...”

PSON-R16

Nametag patterns

Lessons 1-6

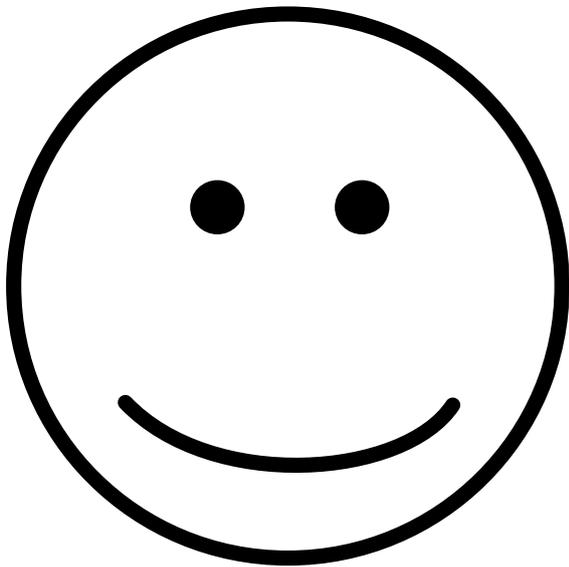
Photocopy the patterns below and cut out enough nametags to allow one per child and plenty of extras. The nametags may be created with coloured card or fun foam, and attached with a safety pin or double-sided tape.



Manger (lessons 1-3)

Smiley face (lesson 4)

Write the child's name along the curve of the smile.

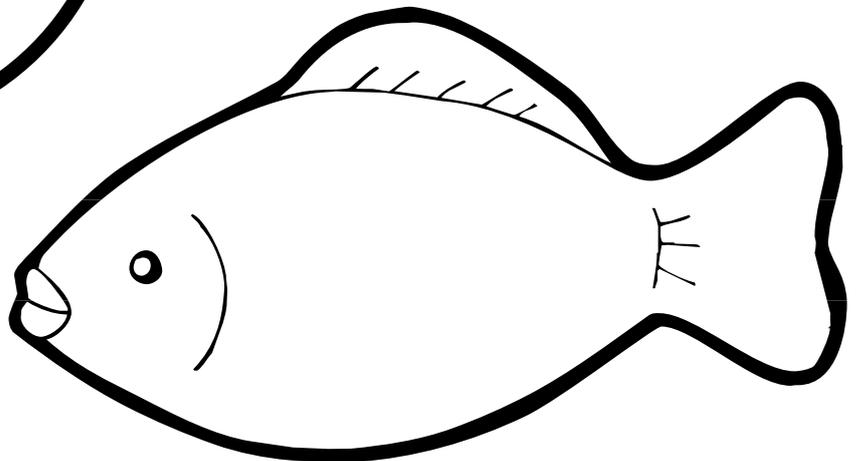


Fish (lessons 5 and 6)

Prepare as directed above for nametags.

For lesson 5 "Catch a fish" photocopy and cut out at least ten from construction paper.

For lesson 5 "Fish in the sea" create the fish out of felt or out of construction paper backed with flocked paper or a paper towel.

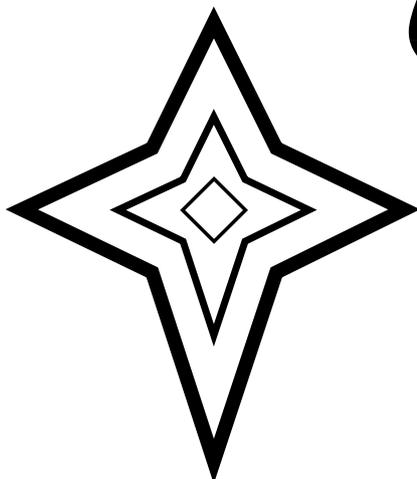
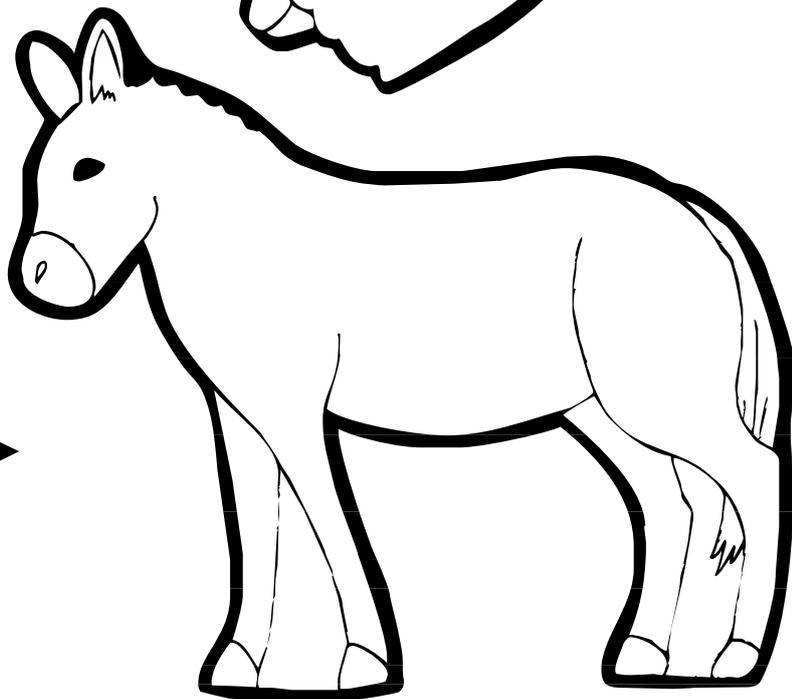
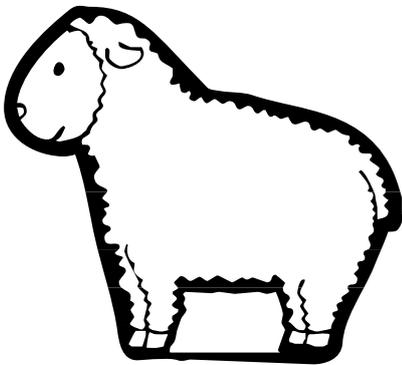
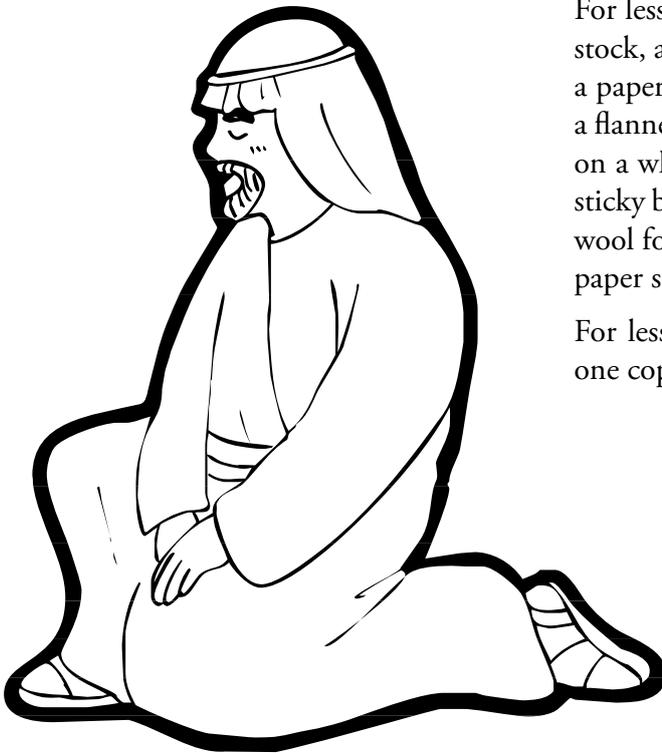


Nativity figures

Lessons 1 and 2

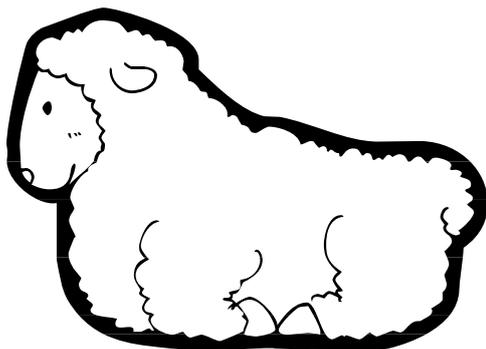
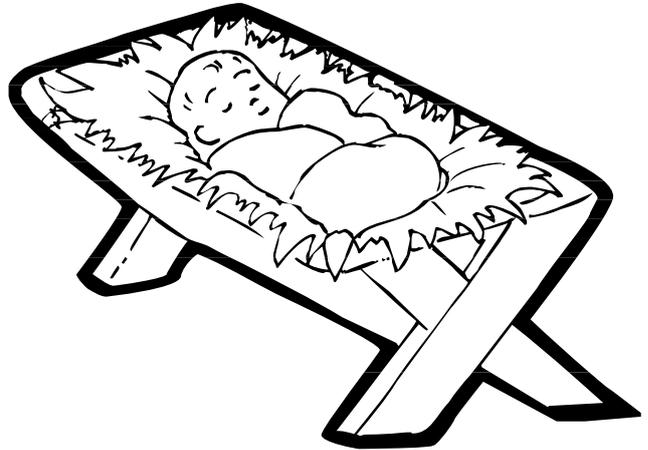
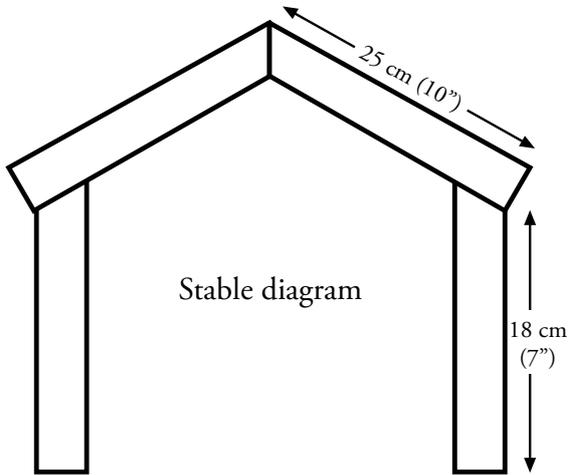
For lesson 1 photocopy both pages of figures onto card stock, add colour and cut them out. Add flocked paper, a paper towel or sandpaper to the back to use them on a flannelboard; or add reusable adhesive to mount them on a white board; or use them as is for placement on a sticky board. If desired create the outline of a stable with wool for a flannelboard, marker for a dry wipe board or paper strips for a sticky board. (See diagram.)

For lesson 2 make enough copies of page 87 to allow one copy per child.



Nativity figures (continued)

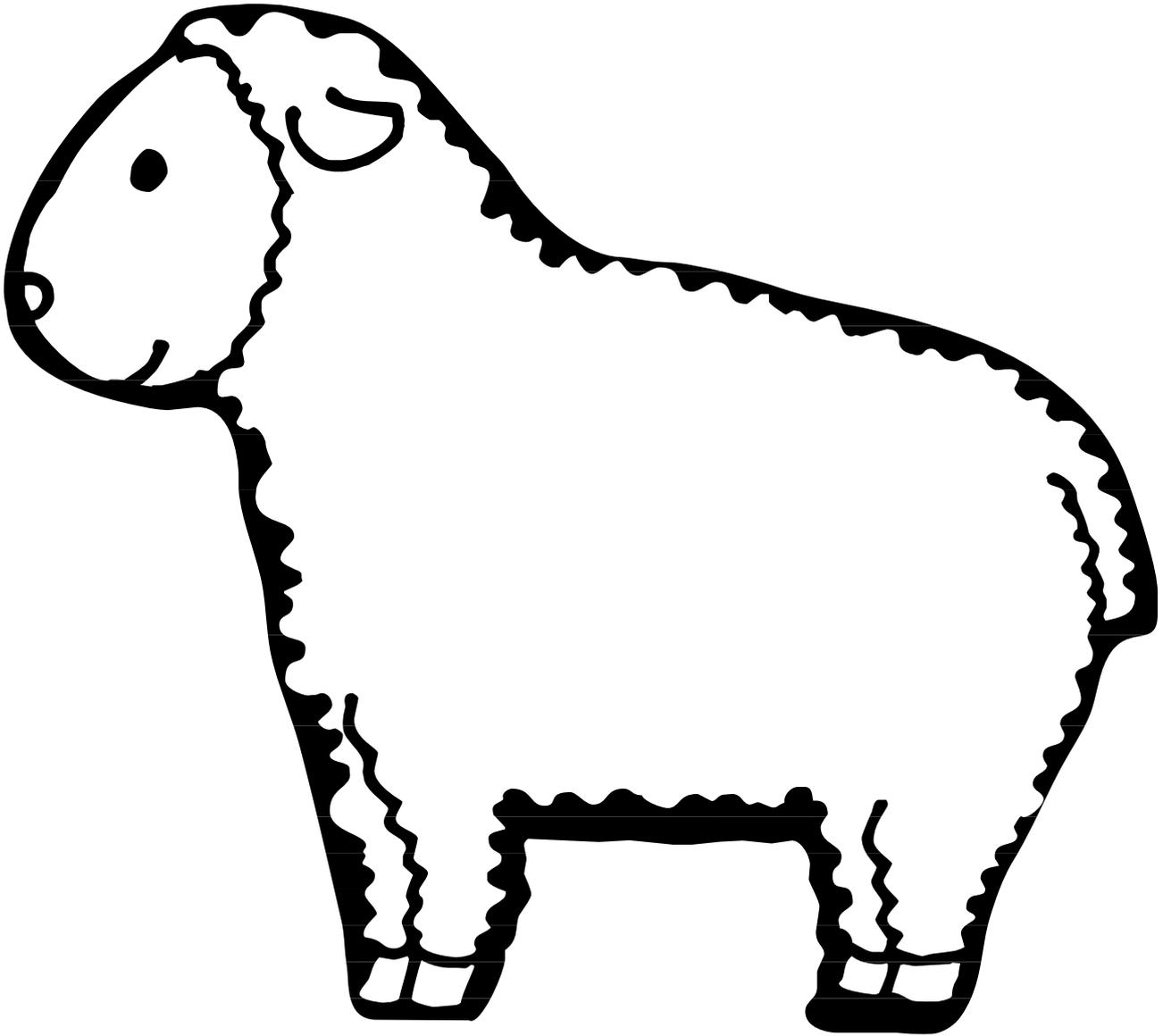
Lessons 1 and 2



Sheep

Lesson 2

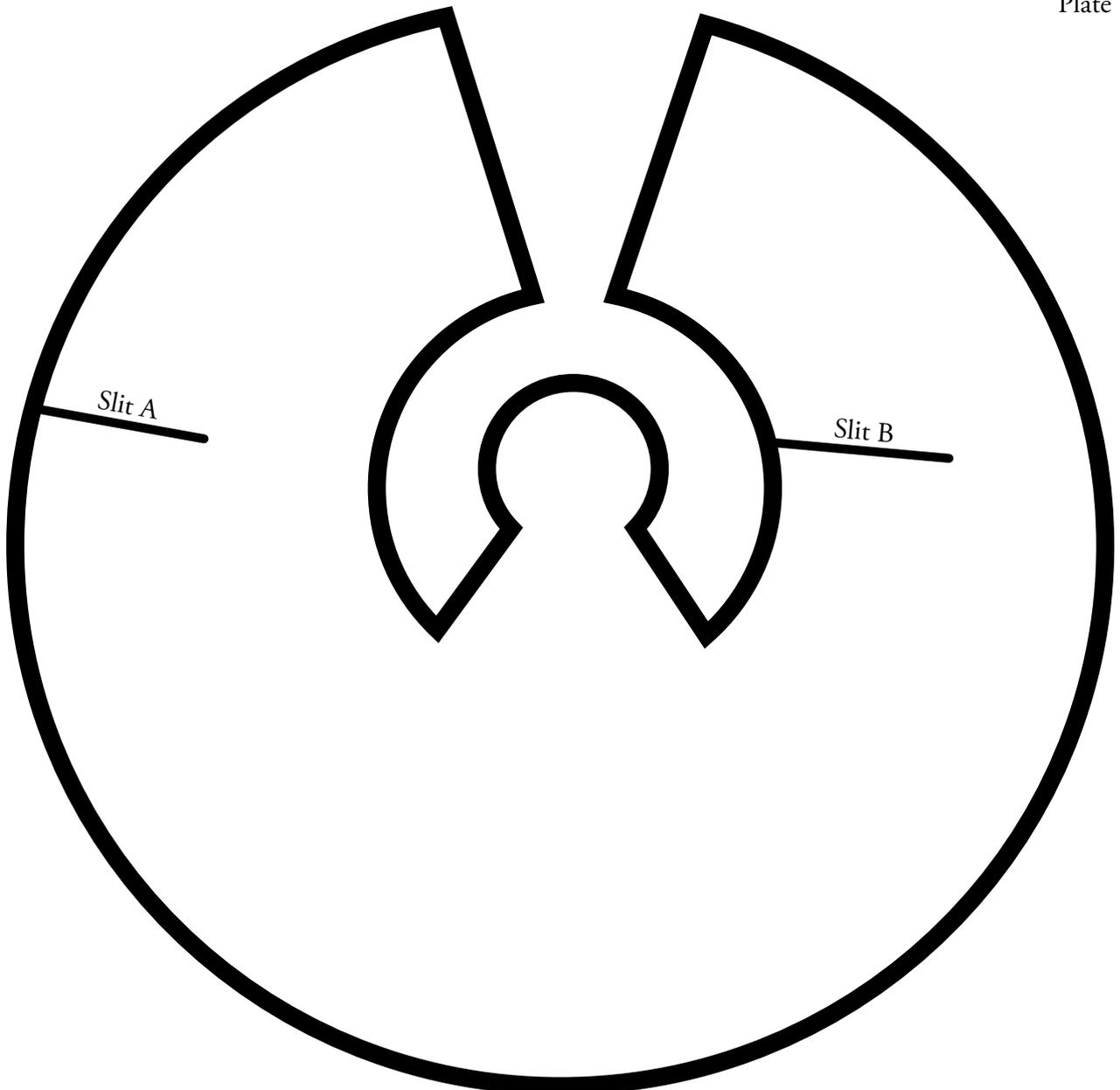
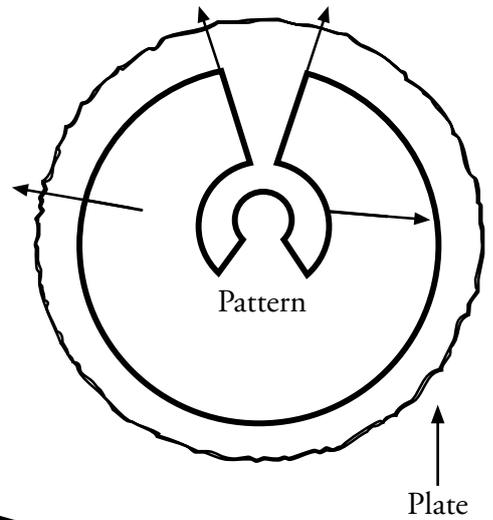
Photocopy and cut out the sheep.



Paper plate angels

Lesson 2

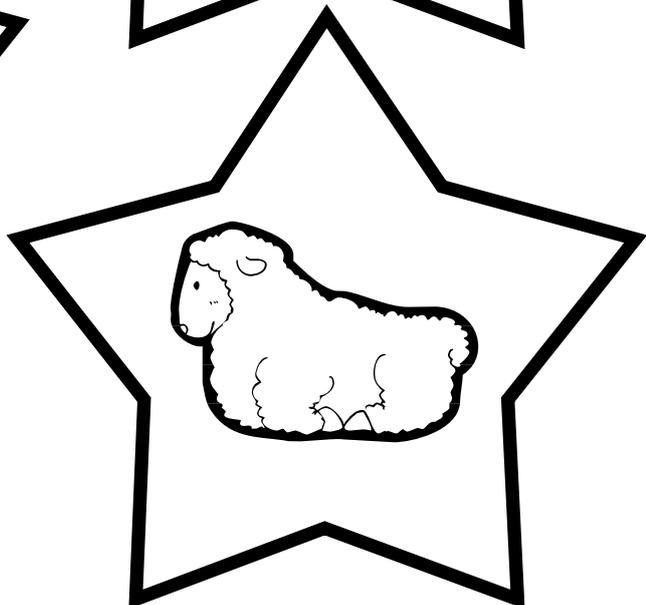
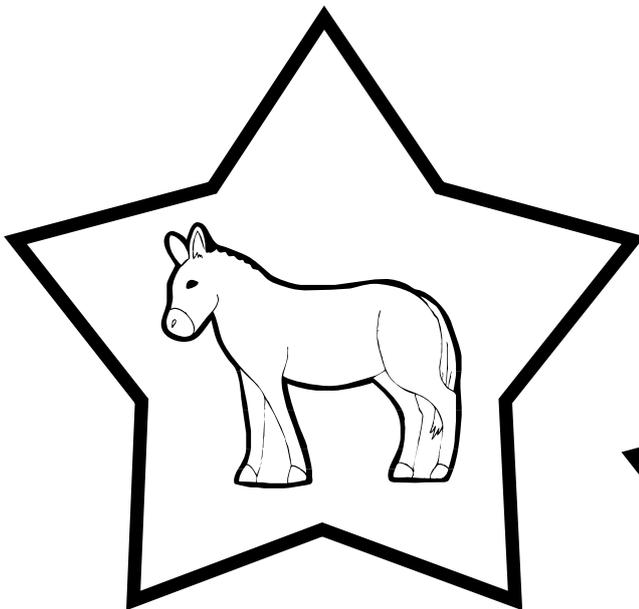
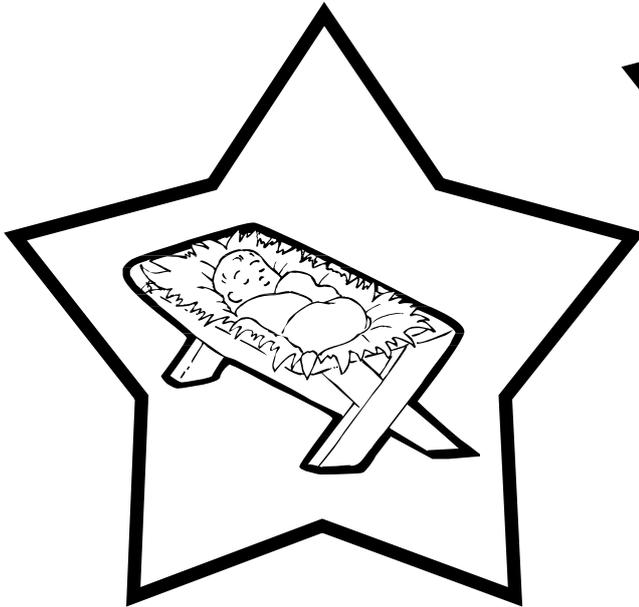
Photocopy and cut out the pattern below. Place it in the middle of a dinner-size paper plate. Trace only along the inside lines of the pattern, extending the slits and the inner lines of the wings the same amount as shown. (Do not cut the plate smaller by cutting along the outside line of the pattern.)



Star concentration

Lesson 3

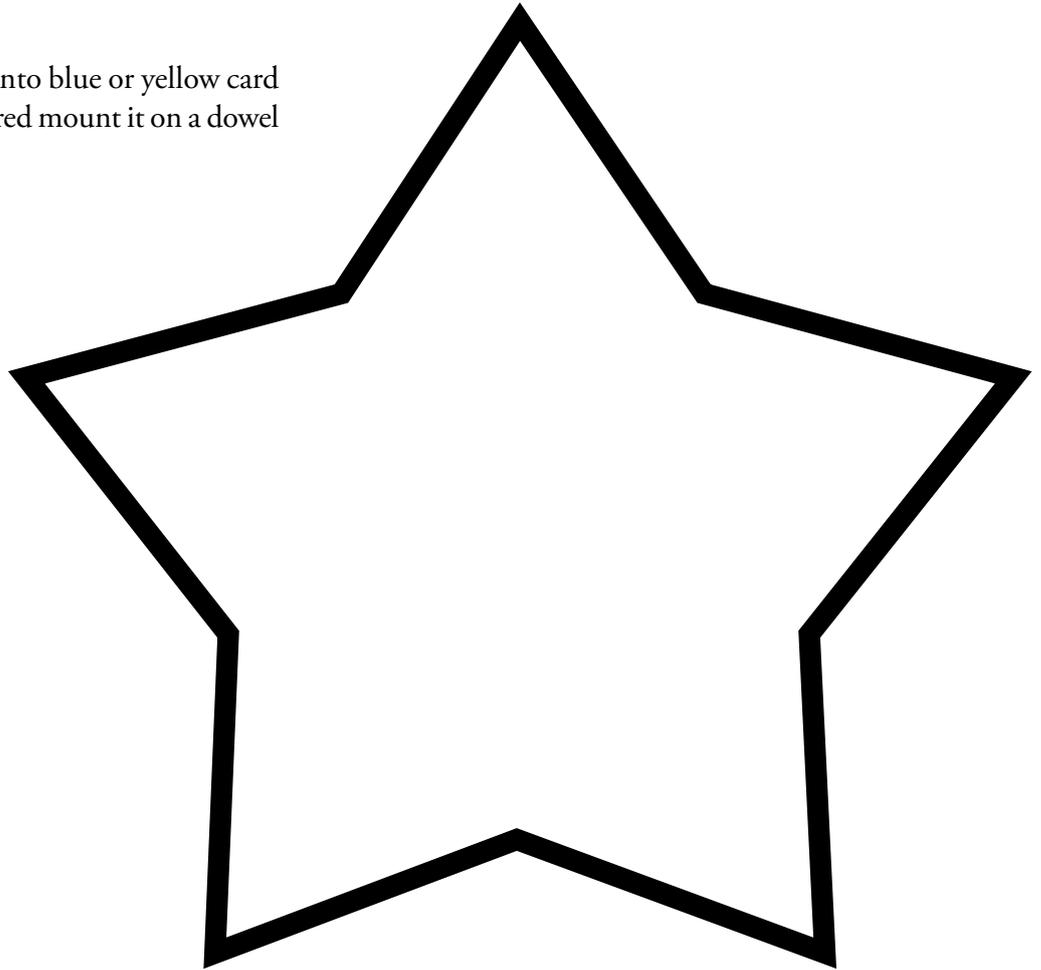
Photocopy two sets of stars onto yellow or blue card and cut them out.



Star

Lesson 3

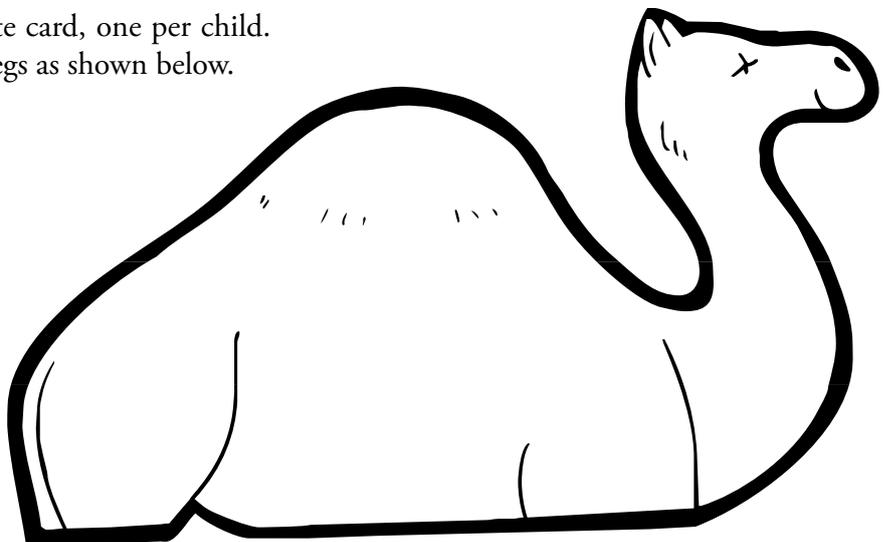
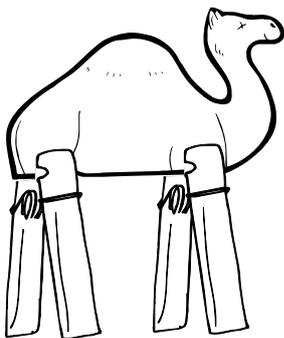
Photocopy the star onto blue or yellow card and cut it out. If desired mount it on a dowel rod or craft stick.



Clothes peg camels

Lesson 3

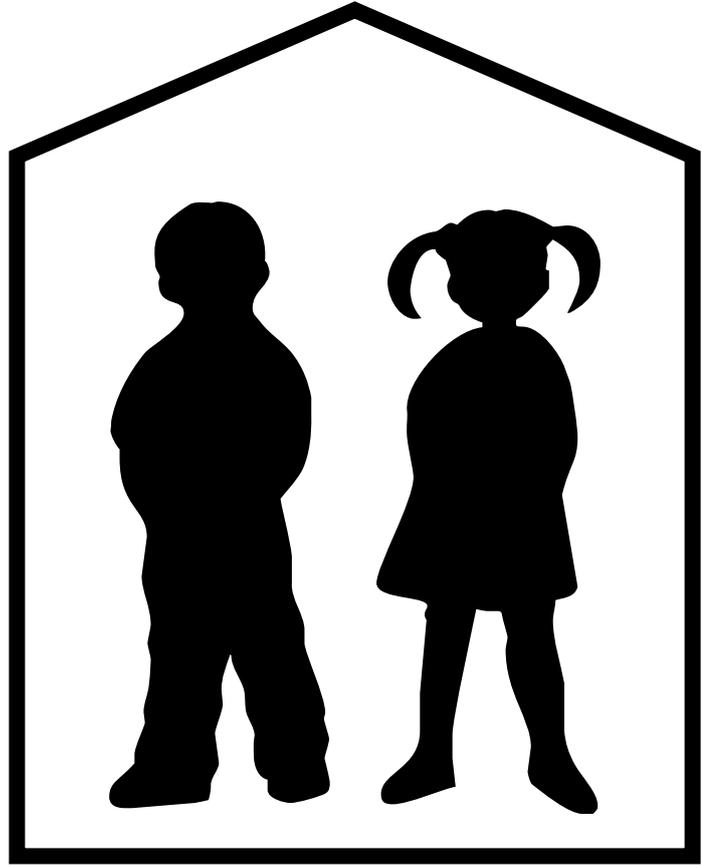
Photocopy the pattern onto white card, one per child. Attach two spring-type clothes pegs as shown below.



Boy and girl arrow

Lesson 4

Photocopy the arrow onto a bright colour of card or construction paper and cut it out. Mount the arrow on a growth chart as shown below.



Messages

Lesson 5

Photocopy the messages, cut them out and glue each to a cut-out fish.

God keeps His promises.	God is holy (perfect).
God always tells the truth.	God loves you.
God deserves our worship.	You have sinned.
Jesus came to do God's work on Earth.	Jesus died for your sin and rose again.
God planned for people to follow Him and do His work.	You can trust Jesus as your Saviour.

Dove

Lesson 5

Photocopy and cut out the dove.



Visual by Stephen Bates © 2009 Child Evangelism Fellowship Inc. Used with permission.

Little kids can know God through His Son. © 2001, 2011 Child Evangelism Fellowship Inc. *Permission is given to photocopy this page for club or class use. All other rights reserved.*

Circle pictures

Lesson 5

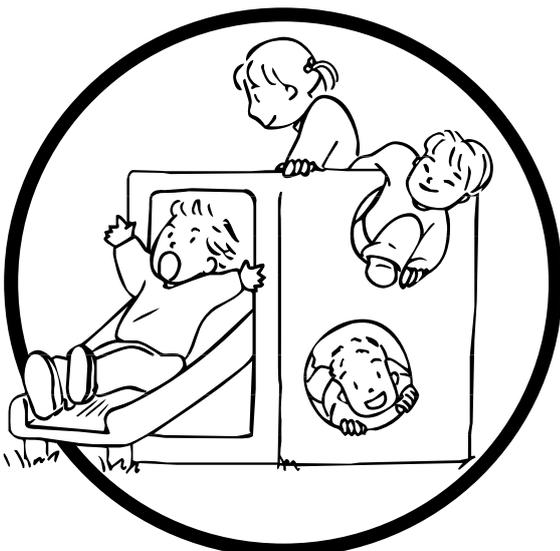
Photocopy one set of circles per child.



I can tell my family about Jesus.



I can tell my friends at the playground about Jesus.



I can tell my friends at nursery about Jesus.

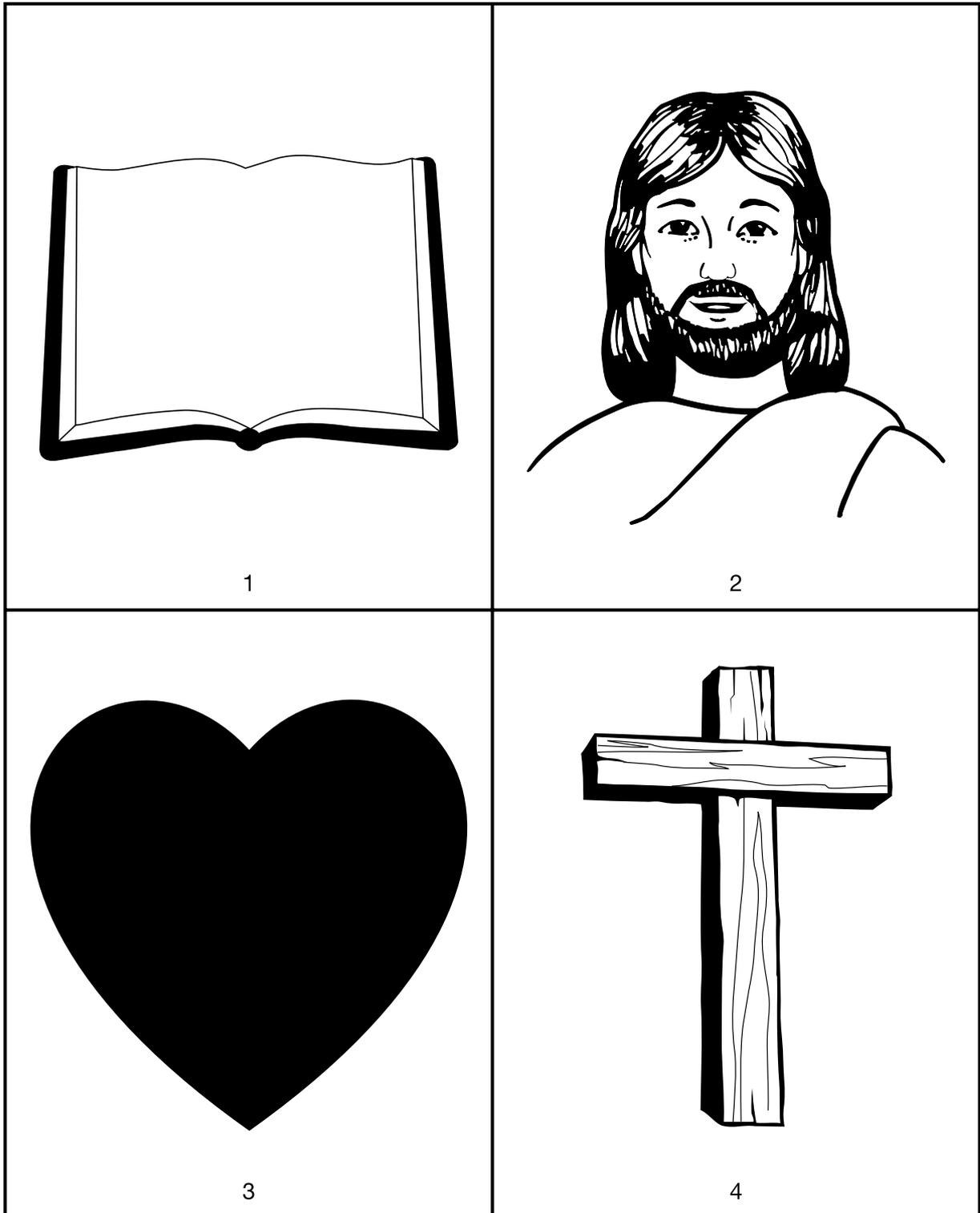


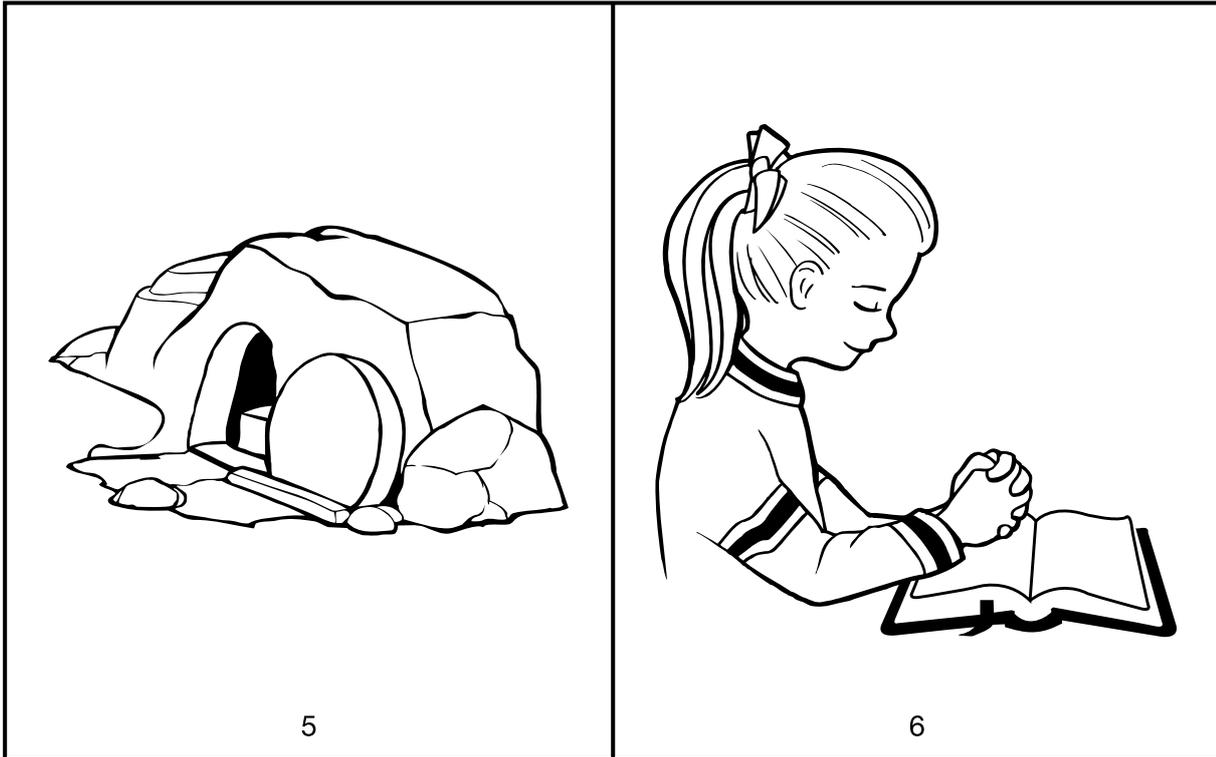
I can tell my friends about Jesus when I play with them.

I believe the Bible

Take-home visuals - lesson 6

Photocopy one set of visuals per child.





I BELIEVE THE BIBLE

H.M. Hubert Mitchell

Chorus:

1. I be - lieve the Bi - ble.
 2. I be - lieve in Je - sus.
 3. You and I have sinned.
 4. Je - sus died for sin - ners.
 5. Je - sus Christ is ri - sen.
 6. Will you now re - ceive Him?

Verse:

1. be - lieve the Bi - ble. 1. I be - lieve the
 2. I be - lieve in Je - sus. 2. I be - lieve in
 3. You and I have sinned. 3. You and I have
 4. Je - sus died for sin - ners. 4. Je - sus died for
 5. Je - sus Christ is ri - sen. 5. Je - sus Christ is
 6. Will you now re - ceive Him? 6. Will you now re -

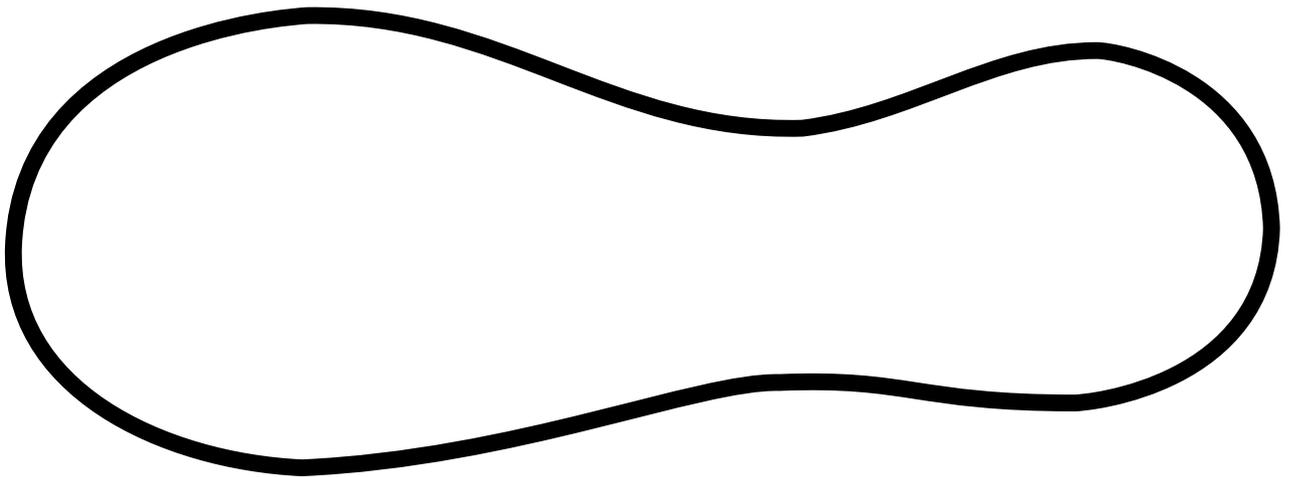
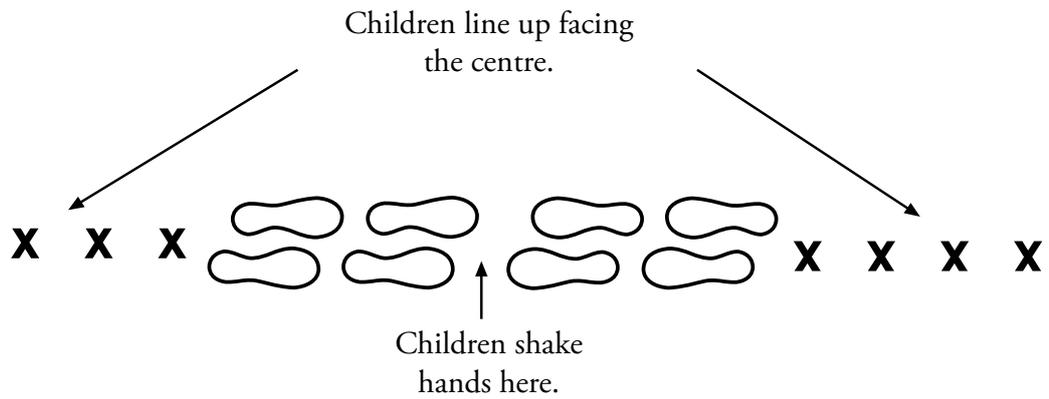
Bridge:

Bi - ble is the Word of God.
 Je - sus; He's the Son of God.
 sinned and that makes God sad.
 sin - ners; Je - sus died for me.
 ri - sen; He a - rose for me.
 ceive Him and be - cause saved for to - day?

Footprint

Lesson 6

Photocopy the footprint and cut it out. Use it to trace and cut out eight card stock or construction paper footprints. Laminate the footprints if desired. Lay the footprints out as shown in the diagram and tape them down.



How to lead a child to Christ

The following symbols represent key parts of the Gospel message. Sample truths and verses that may be used with each are listed below. You may want to photocopy and cut out “Key questions for counselling.” Place it in your Bible to use when counselling a child for salvation.



God's Person and love for the child

- ♦ God is the Creator; He made you.
- ♦ God is holy (sinless, perfect).
- ♦ God loves you.
- ♦ The Bible says, “God so loved the world” (John 3:16).



The child's problem or condition before God as a sinner

- ♦ Sin is anything you think, say or do that displeases God.
- ♦ You were born with a “want to” to do things your own way.
- ♦ You sin by ___ (*give examples on a preschool level*).
- ♦ The Bible says, “All have sinned” (Romans 3:23).
- ♦ The punishment God gives for sin is death - separation from God forever.



God's remedy: forgiveness of sin through Jesus Christ

- ♦ Jesus is God the Son.
- ♦ Jesus never sinned.
- ♦ Jesus willingly bled and died on the cross to take God's punishment for sin.
- ♦ The Bible says, “The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1:7).
- ♦ Jesus died and after three days came back to life (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).
- ♦ Jesus is now in Heaven.



The way to trust Christ as Saviour

- ♦ Be prepared to say “no” to sin.
- ♦ Thank the Lord Jesus for dying on the cross for you.
- ♦ Ask Him to forgive all your sins and to give you everlasting life.
- ♦ The Bible says, “God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). (*Quote this condition/promise verse or another, such as Acts 16:31 or John 1:12. A condition/promise verse gives a condition that must be met for God to fulfil a certain promise. In John 3:16 the condition is belief in Jesus and the promise is everlasting life. Tell the children when and where they can talk with you during the next activity if they would like to trust Christ.*)

Key questions for counselling

The need



- ♦ I think I know why you came to talk to me, but would you tell me?
- ♦ Why do you need the Lord Jesus?
- ♦ What is sin? Who has sinned? (Romans 3:23.)
- ♦ Can you think of something you have done that God calls sin?

The remedy



- ♦ Why did God send the Lord Jesus to Earth?
- ♦ Who is the Lord Jesus?
- ♦ What did Jesus do about your sin? (1 Corinthians 15:3-4.)
- ♦ What happened three days after Jesus died and was buried?

The way



- ♦ (*Show, read and let the child say after you one condition/promise verse; eg John 3:16, John 1:12 or Acts 16:31.*) What does God promise to do for you?
- ♦ What do you want God to do for you now? (*If the child is clear on his need, let him pray. Helps for guiding prayer: tell God about the sin problem between you and Him; what you believe Jesus did because of your sin; what you want Him to do for you today.*)

Assurance and growth



- ♦ What did God just do for you? How do you know? (*Show same condition/promise verse.*) Thank God for saving you.
- ♦ Will God ever leave you? (Hebrews 13:5.)
- ♦ God will help you say “no” to sin. If you do sin, what should you do? (1 John 1:9.)
- ♦ Allow the child to say a “thank you” prayer.